



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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8 April 1991

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Endorses Meeting With Baker in Israel

NC0704195491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The PLO has endorsed a meeting tomorrow evening between a Palestinian delegation of Palestinian figures from the occupied Arab territories and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visit to Israel, the second leg of his Middle East tour.

This announcement came in a statement made by an official PLO spokesman carried by the Tunis-based PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY. The agency indicated that the composition of the delegation is still under consideration. The Palestinian spokesman affirmed that the PLO leadership, which met under Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis during the past 24 hours, endorsed this U.S.-Palestinian meeting. This will be the second time the two sides will have met in a month, following the meeting held in occupied Jerusalem on 12 March.

The spokesman added that the delegation of the occupied Arab territories will reaffirm to Baker the constant principles guiding the PLO's policy which were contained in a memorandum submitted to the U.S. secretary of state during the previous meeting. In that 11-point memorandum, the Palestinian figures stressed that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

It is to be recalled that U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler affirmed in Washington on Friday [5 April] that Baker would meet with the Palestinians if they request a meeting.

'Arafat Adviser Sees 'Ideal Time' for Peace

PM0504114891 London ITV Television Network
in English 1930 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Interview with Nabil 'Ali Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Sir John Thompson; date and place not given; from the "Dispatches" program—recorded]

[Text] [Thompson] The organization [PLO] is banned in Israel, so I met a close adviser of 'Arafat's outside the occupied territories. Given their deplorable performance in the Gulf crisis, I asked him if the PLO could really offer Israel peace and security.

[Sha'th] Absolutely. This is the reason we have opted for a peaceful settlement. This is the reason when we even use violence to protest a very violent occupation; we've used sticks and stones [sentence as heard]. This is really simply a manifestation of our desire to have a peaceful solution.

[Thompson] You haven't convinced me that you're really getting through to Israeli public opinion. After all, they feel under siege, and it's they who have got to give

back territory. What could you do that would really make them feel that you were sincere?

[Sha'th] We have tried. We have accepted, vocally and very clearly, a United Nations role in this matter—a United Nations force that would come and would separate the forces and would maintain a United Nations administration for a while until sovereignty is fully restored. We've accepted—despite the fact that we are victims—to go into dialogue, to go into a freeze on our armed struggle for a while, into a shift from Kalashnikovs to rocks and to protests, all in an effort to convince the Israelis and persuade them that if we talk to each other, if we go to the negotiating table, if we recognize international legitimacy, there is a way out.

[Thompson] I'm going to talk next week to Israeli leaders. What might persuade them to negotiate with the PLO—that it was safe for them to envisage an independent Palestine?

[Sha'th] Tell them that Palestinians are committed to a peaceful process with them, and that this is an ideal moment for doing so. Tell them that the Palestinians' commitment, in words and deeds, have been kept. We've waged absolutely no terrorist campaign against civilians all through this war or before it. That is a mark of our intention to keep on doing that until we reach a peaceful settlement. Tell them that this war has shown them that there is no security guaranteed by borders. Security can only be guaranteed by political commitment to the just solution.

'Arafat Adviser Condemns Expulsions by Israel

LD0504222891 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1700 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] In the occupied territories, six further expulsions were carried out by Tel Aviv in the last 24 hours. Bassam Abu-Sharif, one of Yasir 'Arafat's advisers, told us this evening that by this action, Israel is challenging the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

[Begin Abu-Sharif recording] This decision by the Israeli Government is completely contrary to the resolutions and the decisions of the Security Council. There have been several decisions of the Security Council which view the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories as illegal and contrary to international law, and the Security Council has asked Israel to stop the expulsions and to permit Palestinians who were expelled earlier to return to the occupied territories. This is further proof that Mr. Shamir and the Israeli Government insist on continuing to challenge international law and the Security Council, and we believe that this is the moment when the Israelis should think about changing Mr. Shamir, who has proved that he is an obstacle to the process of peace, and an obstacle on the road to the construction of global peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

Another question put to Bassam Abu-Sharif was: Is there really a new U.S.-Soviet initiative for peace in the Middle East? It is viewed in terms of convening a summit. This summit would assemble Palestinian representatives, representatives of Israel, Jordan, and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Bassam Abu-Sharif's reply is that the U.S. Administration has indeed put forward a new peace initiative but there is nothing official or specific as yet.

DFLP Says 'Abd-Rabbuh Relieved of Post

NC0504152391 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
5 Apr 91 p 11

[Text] Amman—An official spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in Amman has stated the following:

In reply to a report attributed to sources close to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in Tunis, an official spokesman for the DFLP Political Bureau has asserted that the Front informed brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh no longer represents the Front in the PLO and that it has nominated comrade Taysir Khalid as its representative.

The spokesman said that 'Abd-Rabbuh has for 30 months led a group that broke away from the Front's legitimate bodies and that announced its official break on 16 January 1991. The spokesman added that all the efforts made to return this group to the front have failed to make this group reverse its dissident behavior. The latest of these efforts were made over the past few days by some Palestinian leaders in Tunis headed by brother Yasir 'Arafat, Dr. George Habash, and brother Faruq Qaddumi. These efforts, he said, failed to prevent this group from its dissident behavior.

The spokesman added that in light of the above, the DFLP Central Committee has decided to relieve Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh of his post as DFLP assistant secretary general and of all of his other responsibilities. 'Abd-Rabbuh no longer represents the DFLP in the PLO Executive Committee.

Commenting on the reports attributed to 'Abd-Rabbuh's sources in Tunis, the spokesman said: Palestinian legitimacy gains strength inasmuch as there is respect for the rules governing the coalition existing within the PLO and for the legitimate bodies and institutions of the revolution's factions. Palestinian legitimacy is not the legitimacy of individuals acting in isolation from the democratic will of the bases and masses of the revolution.

Dismissed by Hawatimah

LD0504184791 London KUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT
5 Apr 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Tunis, 5 Apr (KUNA)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has decided to dismiss DFLP Deputy Secretary General Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who has been leading a breakaway faction.

The DFLP Political Bureau issued a statement, which was published today by the Tunisian daily AL-SABAH, that says the Front has told PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh is no longer the representative to the PLO Executive Committee and that Mr. Taysir Khalid has been named as the Front's new representative.

The statement adds that for the past 30 months 'Abd-Rabbuh has been leading a breakaway group that has declared rebellion against the Front's legitimate bodies, announcing on 16 January its official split from the DFLP.

The statement adds that all efforts to return this group to the ranks of the Front, the most recent being the good works of a number of Palestinian leaders in Tunis, have failed to convince the group to reconsider its decision to break away from legality, a decision harmful to Palestinian unity.

The statement comes in reaction to recent rumors that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh had been appointed DFLP secretary general in place of Nayif Hawatimah following a meeting held in Sanaa recently and attended by many members of the Front's Central Committee.

Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sayid asserted that either the election or the appointment or both of persons to the PLO Executive Committee, which is the highest authority in the PLO hierarchy, is the prerogative of the Palestinian Parliament.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian official, who prefers to remain anonymous, expressed regret at the development of the quarrel between the two sides. The quarrel has generated provocative measures at a time when a campaign to discredit the PLO's representativeness is under way.

'Abd-Rabbuh To Lead Dissident DFLP Group

NC0504160191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
5 Apr 91 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Tunis—Amman—News Agencies—A wing of the Tunis-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] yesterday chose Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh as its leader in an obvious challenge to Nayif Hawatimah, who has headed the front since 1989.

'Abd-Rabbuh's office said that the DFLP Central Committee had made this decision in reply to Hawatimah's attempts to challenge 'Abd-Rabbuh's credentials as a recognized representative of the front in the PLO Executive Committee.

In his letter to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat the day before yesterday, Hawatimah said that he wanted

the Executive Committee to accept Taysir Khalid as an observer because the front has not been represented in the Executive Committee since an internal dispute erupted 30 months ago.

'Abd-Rabbuh's office said that Hawatimah's step reflects a trend toward domination, individualism, and the behavior of a leader of a coup and that it is an obstacle to achieving national unity.

As a result, he said, the DFLP Central Committee has decided to entrust DFLP Assistant Secretary General 'Abd-Rabbuh with the post of secretary general until the front's general congress convenes the middle of this year. [passage omitted]

National Council To Meet in Tunis 21 Apr

LD0704091891 *Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic*
0630 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] It was learned from the Tunisian capital yesterday that the Palestinian National Council will hold an ordinary session on 21 April in Tunis. According to some responsible Palestinian quarters, this meeting is of great importance on all levels—the Arab, Palestinian, and international ones. The same sources added that this session will be decisive with regard to the future of the Arab-Israeli conflict in general, and the Palestinian issue in particular.

PLO Central Council To Convene on 21 Apr

NC2803163791 *Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*
28 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—A responsible source at the Palestine National Council's presidency said yesterday that the PLO Central Council will convene on Sunday, 21 April, in Tunisia. The council will look into various current Arab and Palestinian situations, escalating the intifadah, and other issues.

Al-Najjab Urges PNSF To Attend PCC Session

PM0504101091 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*
in Arabic 1 Apr 91 p 5

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Palestinian Central Council Meeting Planned Following Al-Fahum Call for 'Arafat Ouster'"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has said that the chief of the Middle East and North Africa Section at the Soviet Foreign Ministry recently briefed the Palestinian leadership in Tunis on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's talks in Moscow, which centered on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue.

Al-Najjab said: "I would not be revealing a secret if I said that these talks reflected a difference between the Soviet and U.S. position, as the Soviet side considers the PLO

the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, in contrast to the hostile U.S. position toward the PLO. The Soviet Union is also committed to the international conference as a framework for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, in contrast to the U.S. side, which is speaking of legitimate rights for the Palestinians and negotiations or a regional conference."

The Palestinian official added that the Soviet envoy's talks with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis focused on seeking a mechanism for boosting the political peace process. The Palestinian side insisted on the need to refer all the international resolutions on the Palestinian problem to the Security Council, on the grounds that it is the international body responsible for implementing these resolutions. The Soviet side agreed on the importance of this step and expressed its willingness to continue these efforts within the Security Council and within the framework of moving toward the European states and the nonaligned states. Meanwhile, the two sides agreed on the importance of restoring a united Arab position in order to implement Arab summit resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict which are consistent with and based on the resolutions of international law.

Sulayman al-Najjab said that the Soviet and Palestinian sides agreed that everything that could be described as obstacles to a settlement—whether these obstacles are raised by the United States or by Israel—can be surmounted from the outset by Israel's open announcement of its acceptance of the Security Council resolutions and its willingness to implement them. Then the task will be merely to seek the best means and frameworks for implementing these resolutions.

Asked about Khalid al-Fahum's [former Palestine National Council speaker] call to other Palestinian figures to remove Yasir 'Arafat as PLO leader in order to facilitate the international move to secure a solution to the Palestinian issue, Sulayman al-Najjab said "we are currently preparing for the Palestinian Central Council [PCC] meeting, inasmuch as it is a leading body that enjoys many of the [Palestine] National Council's [PNC] powers.

It will convene in the last third of April. The Palestinian leadership is busy drafting a political and organizational document that will form a basis for that council's discussions and resolutions. The question of convening the PNC can be discussed within the framework of that meeting. We have called, and continue to call, on Khalid al-Fahum and the groups belonging to the [Palestine National] Salvation Front [PNSF] to abandon the method of boycotting the PNC and to present their ideas through these institutions. Members, or some members, of the PNSF who are members of the PNC and the PCC can still participate in the proceedings of these two councils. We are for developing, not destroying, PLO institutions. As is known, there is an extensive debate on the Palestinian people's rights, the aim being to answer numerous questions posed by the situation. One of these questions is how to develop and improve the performance of the PLO and its institutions.

Algeria**'Arafat Arrives; Welcomed by Foreign Minister**

LD0604160491 Algiers APS in English 1338 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers 6 April (APS)—The president of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived Saturday here. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali and the ambassador of the state of Palestine to Algiers.

Received by Bendjedid

LD0604192391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has been in Algeria since noon today. President Chadli Bendjedid met him this afternoon on the premises of the Presidency of the Republic. Concerning the discussions that took place during this meeting, president Yasir 'Arafat told national radio:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] [words indistinct] and what Israeli newspapers, the Israeli media, and the U.S. media are (?calling) [word indistinct] a summit which aims at establishing a new security system in the Arab Gulf, the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations, and a new Arab Camp David. At the bottom of the agenda comes something for the Palestinians, nothing more than autonomy or an autonomous administration, that is, Bantustans for the Palestinians, like the Bantustans that exist in South Africa.

The current attempt is to exploit the post-Gulf war situation to eliminate the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people. This has become clear from what U.S. officials, including President Bush, have said: No to the PLO; No to an independent Palestinian state; no to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; 6 million Palestinians have no right to self-determination! (?It has also become clear from the efforts to) consolidate greater Israel through Jewish immigration, which in five years' time should reach 3 million Israelis, in addition to support, through various types of weapons and various kinds of financial, political, and media support for the establishment of a greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. What we had previously (?said) was a myth which today they are trying to turn into reality by exploiting the situation [words indistinct] Gulf war.

Of course, [words indistinct] (?one of the dangers of) the al-Ta'if summit, the Palestinian situation in southern Lebanon. As you know, our Palestinian camps are situated within the range of Israeli fire: No more than a few kilometers, between five and six kilometers, lay between us, between our camps in southern Lebanon, and the Israeli forces and Lahad's forces [words indistinct] Lebanese force, we are prepared to deal with whatever (?entrenches) Lebanese authority and Lebanese sovereignty on all Lebanese territories, but through brotherhood and understanding. We of course [words indistinct]

the al-Ta'if summit, which issued the al-Ta'if charter or agreement which they are now talking about. I say [words indistinct] the president that we are prepared to be understanding, but at the same time to preserve all aspects of the Palestinian presence, preserve security for these camps, and preserve the Palestinian rifle. [end recording]

Iranian Embassy Denies Funding Political Parties

LD0504091391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0630 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Algiers yesterday denied news reported by some Algerian newspapers that Tehran has been providing financial assistance to political parties and groups in Algeria.

The Iranian Embassy statement, which was reported by APS, said that the denial was to reaffirm the Iranian policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of any country.

Egypt**Mubarak To Visit Damascus 'Next Month'**

NC0304171391 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT
3 Apr 91

[Text] Doha, April 3 (GNA)—Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is to visit Damascus next month for consultations with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on issues of mutual interest in light of the outcome of the visit to be paid by U.S. President George Bush to the Middle East by the end of the current month, according to the Qatari newspaper 'AL-SHARQ' today.

The paper quoted Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo as saying that Mubarak and al-Asad have agreed at their recent talks in Cairo on reinforcing the Arab organization for military industrialization and establishing advanced Arab air force systems.

The paper further said Syria is studying the possibility to join the Arab organization for military industrialization.

Iraqis Demonstrate Against Saddam at Arab League

NC3003110391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT
30 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—More than 100 Iraqis assembled outside the Arab League building in Cairo carrying placards denouncing the regime and demanding that it not participate in the 95th Arab League session, due to open at the League headquarters in Cairo today.

The opponents submitted a memorandum to the League, stressing that the Saddam Husayn regime does not represent the Iraqi people, against whom Saddam is now committing the most hideous form of oppression, and that Saddam is using napalm and aircraft to crush the revolution.

The Iraqi opposition members also urged that the plight of the Iraqi people be put before the Arab League and demanded, in the name of Arabism and the free people of Iraq, to consider the war of annihilation that Saddam Husayn is waging against the Iraqi people.

Iraq Opposition Confirms Egypt Contacts

PM0704140391 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Mar 91
pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar: "Egypt Allows Iraqi Opposition To Perform Its Activities in Cairo"]

[Text] Egypt has agreed to allow the Iraqi opposition movement in Cairo to perform its political and informational activities against the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Ahmad al-Habbubi, former Iraqi labor and social affairs minister and key Iraqi opposition movement leader, has confirmed the existence of contacts between the movement and some Egyptian officials to exchange views over the present situation in Iraq. In an exclusive statement to AL-WAFD, al-Habbubi revealed that the movement has requested Egyptian backing to help it topple the present Iraqi regime.

He indicated that Egypt did not respond to these requests in the required way. Al-Habbubi also confirmed the existence of contacts between the movement in Egypt and the Iraqi opposition in Damascus, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iran, and London to coordinate moves. The Iraqi oppositionist added that the Iraqi opposition receives good Arab aid to bolster the popular revolution in Iraq. He confirmed the existence of 2 million people opposed to Saddam Husayn's regime. They insist on toppling Saddam and his regime.

Yesterday morning, a number of Iraqi oppositionists demonstrated in front of the Arab League General Secretariat Headquarters, carrying banners calling for the expulsion of the Iraqi representative, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, from the Arab League Council meeting which began in Cairo yesterday. The banners carried the following slogans: "No to the representative of the blood-thirsty murderer Saddam Husayn... Long live the heroic Iraqi people's struggle against the tyrant Saddam Husayn."

The opposition group the Free Iraqis [Ahrar al-'Iraq] handed the Arab League General Secretariat a statement calling for the expulsion of Iraq's representative and intervention to save the Iraqi people from the massacres committed against them by Saddam Husayn and his regime. The statement indicated that the revolution has expanded to include all Iraqi towns, including Tikrit, Saddam's birthplace.

Yemeni President Made 'Secret Visit' to Cairo

NC0504160891 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT
5 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (WAKH)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih made a secret visit to Cairo last week, according to a Qatari newspaper.

AL-RAYAH newspaper quoted a high-level Egyptian source as saying that Salih will return to Cairo after consultation with other Arab leaders, especially King Husayn of Jordan and the Algerian leader Chadli Bendjedid.

Mubarak, Salih Discussed Solidarity

PM0804102791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 5 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "During Secret Visit to Cairo Salih Informed by Mubarak of Commitment to Comprehensive Reconciliation"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih paid a visit to Egypt early this week which was not officially announced. During the visit, he held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak which dealt with ways to improve relations between the two countries and to transcend the situation that occurred between the two countries as a result of the different positions adopted on the Gulf crisis and Yemeni support for the Iraqi president's invasion of Kuwait, which led to the cooling of Egyptian-Yemeni relations.

Presidents Mubarak and Salih discussed ways of restoring Arab solidarity and mending the rift in relations among the Arab states.

An informed source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that during the talks, Egypt emphasized the need to realize a comprehensive Arab reconciliation on the grounds that it is fundamental to the requirements of pan-Arab security. It also emphasized its opposition to such reconciliations being conducted individually, outside a collective framework.

At the same time, Egypt emphasized that it did not wish to hold any meeting or maintain any cooperation with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. But it did not conceal its concern for the Iraqi people. And in that regard, financial conditions in Iraq, especially following the recent eruption of unrest there, were discussed.

Meanwhile, political circles in the Egyptian capital have confirmed that Egypt will embark on active political moves with various Arab capitals to achieve that reconciliation, especially after the agreement reached within the Arab League to convene a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo in Mid-May.

'Second Part' of Mubarak AL-AHRAM Interview
 NC2903233791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT
 29 Mar 91

[Second part of interview with President Hosni Mubarak by the newspaper AL-AHRAM published on 30 March; the first part was published in the 29 March Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 3, column one, under the headline "Mubarak Interviewed on Gulf Relations."]

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—In the second part of his interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow [30 March], President Hosni Mubarak declared that Egypt did not expect a reward when it adopted its principled stand on the Gulf crisis. However, he said, the losses to the Egyptian economy, which have been formally communicated to the UN Security Council, amounted to approximately \$20 billion.

In this part of the interview, devoted to Egypt's internal problems, President Mubarak said that feeling the cruel distress resulting from this crisis, Egypt resumed the contacts it had begun in 1983 to convince the United States to cancel the military debt. He indicated that he had held intensive contacts with the U.S. President and with congressmen until a solution had been reached. He added that although they canceled \$7 billion, the figure [words indistinct] remains \$23 billion if the debt continues until its due date.

President Mubarak explained that in addition, the sisterly Gulf states took another initiative and canceled approximately \$13 billion of Egypt's debt. He noted that there are intensive efforts under way by Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain to cut 50 percent of Egypt's debts. He said that this will be followed by an agreement to reschedule the remaining debt after signing an agreement with the IMF. He said if this reduction takes place, it will reduce the budget deficit, which was previously covered by more borrowing.

President Mubarak said that he gave specific instructions to initiate a system to suspend foreign borrowing and to abide by an upper limit to Egypt's foreign debt. He said this limit will not be exceeded. He affirmed that Egypt did all it can during the past three years to obtain from the IMF the best possible conditions in the interest of low-income people.

He indicated that Egypt went through a difficult crisis last year when it had no foreign currency at all. He said nothing saved us from this delicate position but the help of some Arab brothers to arrange for our need of wheat. Therefore, he added, Egypt is resolved to go ahead with the understanding with the IMF and to introduce the required economic reforms to achieve benefits that exceed any burdens.

President Mubarak declared that an Egyptian Cabinet reshuffle will take place soon. It will enhance performance and continue the process of liberalizing the Egyptian economy.

He said this change will be based on clear and specific thought. For example, he said, there will be about 14 ministries whose task will be to create an atmosphere that attracts investment, encourages projects, simplifies procedures, and monitors performance. He said this change will not be confined to the change of personnel.

Correction to Mubarak Interview on Gulf

NC2903075491

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Mubarak Interviewed on Gulf Relations," published in the 29 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 3:

Column one, graf one, sentence three make read...even when relations between Egypt and Iraq were at their peak within the Arab Cooperation Council, several Ba'thist cells...[changing "Gulf" to "Arab"]

Column one, penultimate graf, sentence one make read...certain Jordanian forces are still plotting against us through contacts with...[clearing indistinct words]

'Secret' Mubarak Message to Israel's Shamir

TA0704044391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
 0400 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has sent a personal message to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Correspondent Yehoshu'a Me'iri reports from Cairo that the contents of the message are being kept secret, but the message itself has been confirmed by a senior Egyptian source.

Mubarak Reportedly Refused To Meet Shamir

NC0704092591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT
 7 Apr 91

[Text] Duhayy, 7 Apr (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak recently refused to receive Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Cairo. Shamir's request was conveyed through the U.S. Administration to hold talks with Egypt on the peace process.

Egyptian sources have told the Duhayy-based AL-BAYAN that Cairo rejects any official Egyptian-Israeli meetings before Israel embarks on a genuine move to give momentum to the Middle East peace process and takes responsible steps to show seriousness in its peace quest. This could be done by halting construction of settlements, revoking its decisions to deport Palestinians, and recognizing the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The sources expressed the hope that the ongoing U.S. efforts will spark a new, more effective move toward establishing peace and stability in the region.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Palestinian Expulsion

NC2603145291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT
26 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—An official Foreign Ministry source has reiterated that Egypt rejects the recent Israeli decision to return to the policy of expelling Palestinians from the Palestinian territories.

The source added that these Israeli practices clearly run counter to the Fourth Geneva Convention on the treatment of inhabitants of occupied territories. He asserted that Israel's conduct does not help build confidence between the two sides and casts doubt on the Israeli Government's seriousness in seeking a settlement for the Palestinian problem and a solution to the Middle East issue.

The source said Egypt hopes influential international parties will stand up to such illegitimate practices.

Ghali Meets Israeli Envoy, Rejects Deportation

NC3103134491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT
31 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has reasserted that Egypt rejects Israel's recent deportation of four Palestinians, which contravenes the fourth Geneva convention. During a meeting with Israeli Ambassador to Cairo Efrayim Dowek, Ghali pointed out that Israel's deportation of the Palestinians constitutes an obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

Government Approves of Arab League Meeting

NC0604142991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Egypt has approved the Arab League's proposal to convene the Arab states foreign ministers' emergency conference on 15 May within the 95th session of the Arab League to discuss the various issues of interest to all the Arab states. Egypt informed the Arab League Secretariat of this approval.

Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, Egypt's permanent representative to the Arab League, told MENA today that Egypt had informed the Arab League Secretariat of its agreement to hold a meeting of the Arab states' permanent representatives on 30 April to discuss financial and administrative issues concerning the League.

He said the Egyptian Government and the Arab League Secretariat are expected to receive shortly the Arab states' responses to Egypt's nomination of Dr. 'Ismat

'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the post of Arab League secretary general, succeeding Chedli Klibi who tendered his resignation last September.

Last Wednesday, Egypt informed the Arab League Secretariat that it was nominating 'Abd-al-Majid for the post.

Allies Said Awaiting Saddam Husayn's 'Fall'

NC0204130691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0525 GMT 2 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial "Race With Time," AL-AHRAM says: The U.S. draft resolution, which is being discussed before being presented to the Security Council for a final cease-fire in the Gulf, stipulates asking Iraq to destroy its chemical and biological weapons under UN supervision within a period not exceeding 90 days. This resolution also stipulates the destruction of Iraq's long-range missiles within the same period. Therefore, Iraq's Saddam is apparently exploiting this opportunity and this period to direct these weapons at his own people and his rebellious citizens.

The paper says: The man is so adventurous by nature that he is staking his entire country, its wealth, and people on the gambling table. He wants to exploit the cards in his hands before they are taken from him in the hope that this time he will triumph over his people and give his regime a new lease on life. Circumstances then might help him to raise his head and challenge the new Security Council resolution as he challenged the previous 13 resolutions, but this time he might think that this challenge could be a turning point in the international community's treatment of him and his regime.

The paper goes on to assert that Saddam is impatiently waiting to lift the economic sanctions imposed on his country in order to establish contacts with the world, prolong his regime, and bring life to the desolation that he has left around him. Therefore, he is staging endless maneuvers to show the world that because he agreed to submit to all the previous international resolutions, he is expecting the world to lift the sanctions. He is also trying by all devilish means, including banned weapons, to control developments in his country to insist, from a position of strength, on lifting the sanctions before his banned weapons are destroyed.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says there is a race with time between Saddam and the coalition forces. The allies are not blind to this game. While insisting on postponing the lifting of sanctions until the new resolution is approved and implemented to the letter, the allies are awaiting an encouraging conclusion to the current struggle in Iraq; namely, the fall of Saddam Husayn himself, so the awaited reconciliation would take its natural course and legitimacy, and be in harmony with a new, completely different regime.

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Arrives on Visit

*NC2803210091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT
28 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim arrived in Cairo this evening on a private visit of several days.

He was received at the airport by a number of police commanders and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo.

Holds News Conference

*NC3003165491 Cairo MENA in English 1505 GMT
30 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, March 30 (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim today said that the Iraqi forces left behind a huge arsenal after their withdrawal from Kuwait.

At a press conference he held today, Shaykh al-Salim said that half of the price of these arms is enough for building many poor Iraqi villages and hospitals in the Iraqi cities which would have made the Iraqi people in a better situation. The Kuwaiti citizens have started handing over the weapons that the Iraqi forces left behind, he added.

He also said that the Iraqi forces planted mines and traps in houses and streets, the matter that causes about five accidents a day.

Kuwait guarantees the financial rights, of all Egyptians, who worked there, till the first of August, Shaykh al-Salim told a press conference.

Kuwait never forgets the stand of President Husni Mubarak [and] the Egyptian people towards the Kuwaiti ordeal caused by the Iraqi invasion, he added.

This came in a press conference held by the Kuwaiti interior minister currently visiting here.

Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah decided to treat abroad and at the government's expense Hammad al-Juway'an, leader of the Kuwaiti opposition the minister said.

Two gunmen had opened fire on al-Juway'an the first day Kuwait was liberated, Shaykh al-Salim further said adding, that al-Juway'an had stressed that Iraqi agents had opened fire on him in order to shake stability in Kuwait.

The minister underlined that parliamentary life in Kuwait is guaranteed by the Constitution which will be effective as soon as stability is restored to the country.

Shaykh al-Salim expressed gratitude and appreciation for the stance of the Egyptian Government and people during the crisis of Kuwait.

He said that Kuwait does not consider the Egyptians among foreigners as they are brothers.

He said that the emir of Kuwait and the crown prince hailed the Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations as Egypt's stances emanate from sincere brotherhood.

Shaykh al-Salim hailed the stance of the Egyptians who remained in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion, adding this courageous stance will be always appreciated by the Kuwaiti Government and people.

The Kuwaiti interior minister denied reports claiming that some Egyptians were executed or detained in Kuwait for collaboration with the Iraqis during the invasion, and said that Egyptians in Kuwait who worked under the occupation, set the best example of honour and sacrifice.

He further underlined that no court verdicts were passed against any Egyptian in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti interior minister spoke of the contact between Kuwait and the outside world [words indistinct] on the first day of the liberation. [Words indistinct] 20,000 international telephone calls were made by Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis, [words indistinct].

He further said that following the liberation of Kuwait the government (?provided 218) international lines to enable citizens in Kuwait to contact their relatives outside.

Concludes Visit; Departs

*NC3103121091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT
31 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim left Cairo this afternoon following a four-day visit to Egypt.

The Kuwaiti minister held a news conference yesterday at the conclusion of his visit, during which he said that new identity cards and passports will be issued to Kuwaiti citizens and that parliamentary life will be revived in Kuwait soon.

Further Reportage on Somali Prime Minister Visit

Somali Reconciliation Meeting in Rome

*NC0504134391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that in light of the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Somali Prime Minister Omar Ghalib and the contacts Egypt conducted with various Somali parties, it has been agreed to hold a roundtable meeting in Rome at the end of April. It will be attended by the various Somali parties to discuss ways of achieving national reconciliation. He said that Egypt's efforts in this connection proceed from its concern for safeguarding Somali territorial integrity.

Ghalib on 'Fruitful' Talks

NC0504201291 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Somali Prime Minister Omar Ghalib will leave for Syria tomorrow at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. He also held talks with senior Egyptian officials.

His excellency gave an exclusive statement to our radio correspondent, expressing joy at visiting Egypt and meeting President Mubarak. He said that the talks he held with his excellency the president were fruitful and constructive. He praised the efforts which Egypt has made and continues to make to unite Somali ranks and attain a solution satisfactory to all Somali parties.

Makes Statement, Departs 6 Apr

NC0604151891 Cairo MENA in English 1150 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, April 6 (MENA)—Omar Arteh Ghalib, Somali premier, left here today for Damascus at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt during which he had talks with President Husni Mubarak and a number of other senior officials.

In a pre-departure statement, he appealed to the whole world to immediately send urgent assistance mainly foodstuffs and fuel to Somalia during this painful and dangerous stage facing the Somali people.

Arteh voiced hope that the reconciliation conference due to be held in Somalia shortly would lead to good results.

The Mubarak-Arteh talks were very fruitful, he said noting that his Damascus visit will be followed by others to a number of Arab capitals.

The Somali premier, in an exclusive interview with MENA, said his talks with Egyptian officials were fruitful, adding that he discussed with them the current situation in Somalia and the situation in the area in general.

Arteh spoke of the Somali national reconciliation conference and said that all the Somali fronts are going to participate in it, so that the conferees would exchange views on the country's destiny.

Now that the people have ended the rule of the dictator Siad, all the factions must sit around the negotiations table and rally rank, he added.

Concluding, the Somali official urged the world countries to extend immediate aid to the Somali people, who are suffering from food and energy shortage.

Former President's Son Acquitted

NC0204101691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0936 GMT
2 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—The emergency Supreme State Security Court has acquitted Khalid Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, the second defendant in the Egypt Revolution organization. The court also acquitted Usamah Ahmad Khalil, Isma'il Jamal al-Din 'Azzam, Hamdi Muwafi, and Sharif Husayn al-Shafi'i.

During its session today under Counselor 'Imad-al-Din Mahmud Isma'il, the Court sentenced the first defendant Mahmud Nur-al-Din to 25 years imprisonment with hard labor.

The Court also sentenced each of the defendants Ahmad 'Isam-al-Din, Nazmi Hasan Sayyid Ahmad, Muhammad 'Ali Sharif, Sami 'Abd-al-Fattah, and Jamal 'Abd-al-Hafiz to 15-year terms of imprisonment with hard labor. The Court sentenced the fourth defendant, Muhyi-al-Din 'Adli, to 10 years in prison with hard labor, and the fifth defendant, Ahmad 'Ali Muhammad, to three years in prison with hard labor. It also sentenced defendant Hamid Muhammad Ibrahim to one year in prison with hard labor. The execution of punishment will be suspended for three years.

The Court also sentenced defendant Mahmud Muhammad Yusuf to three years in prison and defendants Mamduh 'Ali Rajab, Isma'il 'Abd-al-Mun'im Isma'il, Ahmad Ibrahim, Mukhtar 'Abd-al-Hamid Yusuf, and Jamal Shawqi 'Abd-al-Nasir to six months in prison with hard labor, with suspension of punishment for three years. All the defendants attended the trial.

Foreign Minister Receives PLO Ambassador

NC0404132591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT
3 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal.

They discussed the meeting of the Arab League Council's permanent representatives scheduled to be held after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr holidays.

'Arafat Said Seeking Libya Mediation on Ties

PM0104154791 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic
25 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Asks al-Qadhdhafi To Mediate for Restoration of Ties With Egypt"]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has asked Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to mediate with the Egyptian leadership with a view to improving relations between him and Egypt, which deteriorated when 'Arafat and his aides in the PLO supported Saddam Husayn and his invasion of Kuwait.

During their recent meeting in Tripoli, Yasir told Colonel al-Qadhafi that he hoped Cairo would receive him and his colleagues and that Egypt would participate in the talks he would hold with Syria, the Gulf states, the United States, and Europe for the settlement of the Palestinian question.

Al-Baz Addresses NDP on Security, Economy

NC0604130391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 6 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, has called for establishing a new security system for the Gulf countries which, while not being dissociated from the Arab security system, will place emphasis on security in the Gulf.

At a meeting with the leaders and members of the National Democratic Party [NDP] in Alexandria last night, Dr. al-Baz said both Syria and Egypt are the countries that are qualified to undertake the role of boosting the new security system.

He affirmed the importance of relations of good neighborliness and nonaggression agreements among the neighbor countries, particularly Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Dr. Usamah al-Baz said that within the framework of the international conference that is currently being discussed for the settlement of the problems in the Middle East, foremost being the Palestinian cause, the other issues the Arab countries have with Israel should also be discussed, particularly with respect to Lebanon and Syria, part of whose lands are still under occupation. The same applies to Jordan which has borders with Israel which it wants to secure. The international conference should also discuss the issue of weapons of mass destruction and other topics such as terrorism and international cooperation in all fields.

In reply to questions by the audience, Dr. al-Baz said that the Egyptian forces had carried out their duties in an excellent manner in the war for the liberation of Kuwait and the time will come when these forces' feats will be made public. [passage omitted]

Dr. Al-Baz said that Egypt's role in the reconstruction of Kuwait cannot be a secondary role because its military, information, and political role was a basic and not a secondary role in Kuwait's liberation. [passage omitted]

Dr. Al-Baz said that Egypt's debts are estimated at about \$31 billion after the United States had cancelled \$6.7 billion and the Gulf countries had cancelled Egypt's debts to them. He added that Egypt is exerting strenuous efforts to get rid of a large part of its debts.

Further on Al-Baz Remarks

NC0604131091 Cairo MENA in English 1120 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Alexandria, April 6 (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign undersecretary and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs, denied reports published on attacks, penalties or sentences executed against Egyptians in Kuwait.

The reports are untrue and unfounded, he told the leaders and members of the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP] at the Alexandria Governorate here last night. He said that he was assured of this after inquiring into the issue with the Kuwaiti authorities and through the Egyptian Embassy.

Egypt will have priority in job opportunities in Kuwait but this will be arranged within the framework of the requirements of Kuwait for foreign labour, and this will not be before the government organizes itself and specifies its needs, Dr. al-Baz said. He referred to the arrangements made at present by the Kuwait authorities to return life to normal in their country.

Al-Baz on 'Specific Role' for Iraq

NC2703154491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Mar (WAKH)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's Office for Political Affairs and first Foreign Ministry under secretary, has called for launching a pan-Arab order that is capable of preventing a repeat of what happened in Kuwait.

In an interview in today's edition of AL-ITTIHAD, Dr. al-Baz added: Everyone thought that the Arab League Charter and the provisions contained in the Joint Arab Defense Pact were sufficient for Arab security. However, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has disproved this. Thus, a new structure for pan-Arab security must be found. Special consideration should be given to security in the Gulf region, because oil resources are located in this region; this makes the region a target for many greedy parties. In addition, demographic factors in the Gulf states do not enable these states to establish, by themselves, a pan-Arab defense structure that is capable of facing threats and aggression.

Dr. al-Baz indicated that the Arabian Gulf states will determine their own security needs in the new security structure, because they are the countries directly concerned. He pointed out that the region's states are expected to clearly determine their requirements within the next few weeks.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz called for keeping the door open for a specific role for Iraq to play in this security structure after the situation changes in Iraq. The change should be the kind that would make Iraq a country that can

actually interact with the remaining Gulf states and that would turn it into an asset rather than a threat.

Minister Al-Sharif Briefs Mubarak on Libya Trip

NC2703164291 *Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic*
1230 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif at 'Abidin Palace this morning. Safwat al-Sharif said he presented a detailed report to President Mubarak on the mission entrusted to him by his excellency. The information minister conveyed a message to brother Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. The information minister said that the message is important within the context of Arab moves to achieve Arab solidarity, especially the convocation of the Arab League Council. Included are consultations between leaders Mubarak and al-Qadhafi on issues of interest to the Arab region, headed by the Middle East issue, the Palestine question, and the future developments concerning the Palestine question.

Safwat al-Sharif indicated that he conveyed to President Mubarak a reply from the Libyan revolution leader on the same issues and cooperation between two fraternal countries. The information minister explained that the messages exchanged between the two Arab leaders stressed the importance of following up and boosting joint Arab action. He said the messages also stressed identity of views on Arab solidarity, moving past the Arab Gulf crisis, the unity of Arab ranks, and giving priority to the Palestine question.

Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak gave directives to extend the transmission of the space channel to African states and to major Egyptian embassies abroad. He said that President Mubarak reviewed the promotion of media performance, headed by external media. The president noted that this could be achieved by exploiting the Egyptian space channel. Al-Sharif said the president stressed the importance of making all means available to achieve international expansion. Safwat al-Sharif explained that President Mubarak requested a speedy completion of measures to expand transmission by providing the required credits to install ground stations for the African states that subscribed to the space channel. He noted that 30 states have subscribed so far, which is good for expansion.

Libyan Envoy on Borders, Unity With Egypt

NC0404100691 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 2235 GMT
3 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Ahmad Qadhaf al-Damm, director of the Libyan Relations Bureau in Cairo, has stated that demolishing border gates on the Libyan side of the Egyptian-Libyan border last Thursday by brother Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, came as a natural response to the

Libyan revolution's desire to remove the borders that colonialists had created among Arab states.

At a press conference he held in Cairo this evening, Qadhaf al-Damm said Col. al-Qadhafi demolished the border gates on the Libyan side of the borders. However, he added, Libya is not demanding Egypt to do the same, because Libya is removing borders with neighboring Arab states without implying any commitments on the part of these countries. He said any Arab citizen can enter Libya without being prevented from doing so by border guards or the police.

Qadhaf al-Damm added that this measure is in the framework of Libya's desire to develop an all-embracing Arab unity. He asserted that this measure does not hide a personal interest, a conspiracy, or any long-range objectives, although some states, particularly in the West, give it a wicked and purposeful interpretation. [passage omitted]

He asserted that nothing prevents an Egyptian-led unity between Libya and Egypt in the various fields. He added that Libya does not object to the establishment of this unity through a positive dialogue and according to a specific timetable. However, he stressed, the most important thing is to remove borders as a preliminary stage. [passage omitted]

Libyan Minister on Cooperation, Integration

NC0604163091 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 0750 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi, secretary of the Libyan General Congress for Integration with the Arab Republic of Egypt Affairs, has stated that Egypt and Libya are beginning to consolidate economic relations and that studies are under way to merge similar industries in the two countries to promote industrial development. He said that two committees are working to specify these industries, the mergers of which will take place in accordance with a plan that the two countries' officials had discussed.

He said that Libyan Industry Ministry officials have paid four visits to Egypt during which several agreements were signed and joint ventures were agreed upon. He said that military industrialization is part of these agreements. He added that several Egyptian experts are in Libya to study industrial integration between the two countries.

In statements to AL-AHRAM today, the Libyan secretary said that the implementation of the first stage of the \$100 million deal has actually started through the provision of Libyan-produced iron and steel to Egypt in exchange for components required for modernizing Libyan plants, which are being produced in Egypt.

The Libyan official said that Egypt has agreed to provide Libya with expertise in the production of engines and

cars, and that Libya will import ready-made clothes and rice from Egypt. Libya used to import rice from China.

The Libyan secretary said that investment contracts worth around \$200 million have been signed with Egypt and that some of the programs included in these contracts are being implemented, and that the Libyan Investment Company is implementing a series of ventures in Egypt, including the linking of the electricity networks between Egypt and Libya.

Muhammad Mahmud Hijazi affirmed that the first stage of the railroad linking Marsa Matruh and Tubruq will be completed in the next three months and that the second stage of this railroad linking Tubruq to Banghazi will be implemented immediately thereafter. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Sends Letters to GCC States

NC0304161891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT
3 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with the ambassadors of the six Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states today.

In a statement following the meeting, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari said that the Egyptian foreign minister asked the six GCC ambassadors to carry letters to their foreign ministers. In the letters, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid sums up the ideas and principles included in the Damascus Declaration and the practical form and procedural steps that will be taken to implement this declaration.

The Kuwaiti ambassador added that several meetings will be held on various levels to crystallize the final form of the Damascus Declaration. He noted that today's meeting took place due to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's concern about explaining Egypt's political activities in the regional and international arenas, particularly the recent meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the talks that were held during this meeting on developments in the region and Iraq.

Mubarak Sends Message to UAE President

NC0404095391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has sent a message to Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The Emirates news agency WAM said the message deals with developments in the region after the liberation of the State of Kuwait and bilateral relations.

The news agency said Shaykh Zayid received the message when he received Mr. Fakhri Ahmad 'Uthman, Egypt's ambassador to the UAE, yesterday evening. It

added that this message is within the framework of continuing discussions and coordinating stands between the two countries.

Gaza Delegates Meet PLO, Saudi Bankers

TA0304095791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Apr 91 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The three Gaza Strip notables, who left for Cairo last weekend to discuss political and financial issues, met with PLO representative in Egypt, Sa'id Mahmud Kamal, and with his deputy. The three are attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah; 'Aqil Matar, chairman of the Gaza Strip Engineers Association; and Dr. Akram Matar, director of Gaza's eye hospital. The notables, who are affiliated with the PLO, met with the PLO representatives at the hotel at which they are staying and briefed them on their mission.

Dr. Matar said yesterday that the meeting was accidental and unplanned. According to him, since the PLO men were staying at the same hotel, and since they are acquainted, they had a conversation. It should be noted that when the Israeli security authorities approved the delegation's departure for Cairo, the three were warned against meeting with PLO representatives. According to Matar, the conversation revolved around the economic situation in the Strip. At the same time, various sources said yesterday that the proposal to set up a municipal council in Gaza, which had been made conditional on the PLO's approval, was possibly also discussed. The proposal had been initiated by the defense establishment, which may authorize the council to improve the standard of municipal services Gaza inhabitants receive.

The three notables also met with the Cairo representative of the Jiddah Islamic Bank. They acquainted him with their economic plan, which includes the construction of new housing units in Gaza, and requested a long-range loan to finance their plan. The plan envisages the construction of five projects that would house members of Gaza's Fatah-affiliated professional unions, such as the Engineers, Attorneys, and Medical Associations.

Saudi financing would be funneled into the construction of 600 housing units in high-rise buildings accommodating 40 to 60 families, which would help overcome the extreme housing shortage in the city of Gaza. The delegation members intend to demand that the Israeli authorities allot land and issue building permits to enable the execution of the projects.

The bank representative apprised the delegation of Saudi Arabia's willingness to respond favorably to some of their requests, including the possibility that funds would be granted as donations, rather than loans. If the plan materializes, this will be the first time Saudi Arabia will have extended funds to PLO-affiliated territories leaders

without contact with the organization. The bank's representatives are expected to announce their decision by the end of this week.

The Gaza delegation members noted that, contrary to Israel Television reports, they had met neither with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid nor with Mubarak's political adviser, Usamah al-Baz, who is abroad. They said, however, that such a meeting may take place within the next few days.

Meeting With PLO Representative Denied

TA0404095391 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
4 Apr 91 p 5

[Telephone interview with Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, chairman of the Gaza Bar Association, by Yoram Binur in Cairo on 4 April]

[Text] Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, chairman of the Gaza Bar Association; 'Aqil Matar, head of the Gaza Engineers' Association; and Dr. Akram Matar, head of the Gaza Eye Hospital, are staying at the Cairo (Meridian) Hotel. They are scheduled to meet Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, in the coming days.

[Binur] Is there no opposition in the Gaza Strip to the fact that the raising of funds for the Strip in Egypt is being done for the first time without the mediation of the PLO?

[Abu-Rahmah] We cannot conduct a referendum each time we go to carry out a project, otherwise we could not get anything started. But to the best of my knowledge, nobody has voiced opposition to the visit and the project we are planning.

[Binur] Is it true that you met with the PLO representative in Cairo in the hotel?

[Abu-Rahmah] Rubbish, there was no such meeting, either planned or accidental.

[Binur] What was the aim of your trip to Cairo?

[Abu-Rahmah] We are looking into a solution to two problems weighing down the Gaza Strip: housing and education. We have already conferred with representatives in Saudi Arabia, from whom we asked for financial aid that would enable us to solve some of the housing problems. We expect Egypt to give us academic aid. I hope we will soon be talking with Butrus Ghali on the issue.

[Binur] What is the amount you plan to raise on this trip?

[Abu-Rahmah] We are considering the establishment of some 600 housing units at a cost of about \$15 million.

[Binur] Are you not afraid that Israel will foil the plan?

[Abu-Rahmah] It is not a political project but one aimed at helping the residents of the Strip; therefore, I do not think the authorities will foil it.

Libya

Quayle Remark on UN Resolution Assailed

LD2803173191 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the Peoples' Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has sent a message to the foreign ministers of the Arab countries. The text of the message is as follows:

The Voice of America political commentary, which was broadcast on 20 March and reflects the U.S. Government's viewpoint, has repeated what U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle stated a week ago, which constitutes an insult to the Arabs and is tantamount to slander. The American official had announced that the Zionist entity is the only democratic state in the region that appreciates political freedom, and requested the international community to cancel UN General Resolution 276, in which Zionism is described as a form of racism. Indeed, he attacked the United Nations, calling its resolution an arrogant act which generates disgust. The American President [as heard] has reaffirmed his administration's call for the cancellation of that resolution.

This announcement by the United States comes at a time when that country is claiming to be seeking to implement international legitimacy and establish a new political order in the Middle East. We cannot interpret this call to cancel the UN resolution as anything but an insult to the Arab homeland and a frank confirmation that the United States is working to control and exercise hegemony over the region through its strategic ally, the Zionist entity [passage indistinct]. [Tripoli JANA in English at 0836 GMT on 30 March transmits a 270-word message from the "secretary of the Libyan People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation" to "the foreign ministers of Arab countries." The JANA English version is identical to the Tripoli Domestic report, and concludes with the following sentences: "We cannot interpret this call to cancel the UN resolution as anything but an insult to the Arab homeland and a frank confirmation that the United States is working to control and exercise hegemony over the region through its strategic ally, the Zionist entity, which has already called upon the American Senate to urge the Arab parties to recognize it. In our opinion, this necessitates the urgency of paying attention, to face the situation and take all measures to preserve the pride and the rights of the Arab nation."]

Tripoli on U.S. 'Occupation' of Arab States

LD2803105291 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] The consequences of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait have begun to emerge: Another Arab country has lost its independence, thus raising to four the number of Arab countries now under occupation, namely Iraq, Bahrain,

Kuwait, and Palestine. On a sad, black day, Bahrain has become a U.S. colony, and it has transpired that the dispatch of forces to liberate Kuwait was a big act of deception, for they have remained in Kuwait, replacing the Iraqi occupation with U.S. occupation.

Iraq's Acceptance of UN Resolution 'Humiliation'

LD0704090891 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] On a sad black day which came as a shock to the Arab masses, the Iraqi Government announced its acceptance of the humiliating UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution on a cease-fire in the Gulf war. Nobody ever believed that Iraq would accept this humiliating resolution, even if it meant its disappearance from the world map.

History has never witnessed such a humiliation as that which has befallen Iraq today, except perhaps in the history of Germany in World Wars I and II, when it was divided and occupied.

Iraq has accepted the disgraceful UNSC resolution which destroys whatever has remained of Iraq. This resolution strips Iraq of the weapons which the enemy described as offensive, when in fact they were defensive. It also provides for the dismantling of war factories and research laboratories and equipment, the destruction of biological and chemical weapons, and so on. It also provides for the destruction of Iraqi missiles. In an attempt to throw dust in people's eyes, the resolution exempts from destruction those missiles with a range of less than 150 kilometers, because there is no need for missiles of such range and indeed, they do not even exist.

After the implementation of all this, the U.S. and multinational forces will withdraw from Iraqi territory to be replaced by international forces consisting of contingents from the five UNSC permanent member countries, which will be deployed along the entire length of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border 10 km inside Iraqi territory and 5 km inside Kuwaiti territory.

The Arab masses in Jordan have staged huge demonstrations in which 15,000 citizens have taken part, demanding that Iraq reject the resolution and wipe out the insult. But Iraq disappointed us all, made us all—we the Arabs—drink the cup of humiliation, and removed the opportunity for us to say that Iraq was the one that should have been compensated, by giving it the Rumaylah oil field and Bubyah Island. Instead, Iraq today is undertaking to pay war reparations by ceding part of its oil production for many years to come.

The measures against Iraq's sovereignty and dignity exceed all limits today in an unprecedented fashion, with the UNSC resolution defining for the Iraqi Government how to treat its Kurdish citizens. This measure has been described by some international circles as being the first time the UNSC has issued a resolution telling a country how to treat its citizens.

People's Bureau Welcomes 'Change' in Mali

LD2703174291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Mar (JANA)—A responsible source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation today welcomed the change that has taken place in Mali, particularly as it put an end to the acts of repression and mass killing of the past few days there.

In a statement to JANA, the source said that he considers the events in Mali as something positive reflecting the conscience of the Malian people. He added: According to our estimation, it is purely an internal change.

The responsible source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation wished the fraternal Malian people stability, peace, and the bolstering of freedom in accordance with their national will and choices.

Syrian Vice President Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0304110291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1010 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Apr (JANA)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left Tripoli this morning after concluding his visit to the Great Jamahiriya.

'Arafat Meets Al-Qadhdhafi, Departs 7 Apr

LD0804110791 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who broke his fast at the brother leader's table. The Palestinian president and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli yesterday evening after visiting the Great Jamahiriya.

Foreign Secretary, Chadian Minister Discuss Ties

LD0604093691 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met Brother Hassan Fadoul Kittir, the Chadian minister of planning and cooperation, yesterday evening. They discussed relations of cooperation between the two peoples and ways and means of developing this cooperation to achieve a common interest.

The Chadian minister of planning and cooperation had arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriya in the framework of developing and bolstering the existing relations between the Great Jamahiriya and Chad.

Sudanese Colonel, Delegation Arrive in Tripoli

LD0604201491 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Apr (JANA)—Staff Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council in sister Sudan, [name and title as received] and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriya.

Morocco

French Foreign Minister Visits; Meets Press

LD0504140791 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT
5 Apr 91

[Text] Rabat, Apr 5 (MAP)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas announced here Thursday evening that France has worked out "a plan for cooperation bolstering" based on "a new kind of relations" to the benefit of Morocco and other Maghreb countries.

Dumas, who was speaking at a news conference here during a short visit to Rabat, said this cooperation must be based on partnership in the economic, financial, and cultural fields between France and Maghreb countries and between the Maghreb grouping (UMA gathering Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) and the European Economic Community (EEC).

France's financial cooperation with the main Maghreb countries, namely Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, alone totals four billion French Francs [FF] while cultural cooperation amounts to FF one billion.

Dealing with cooperation among Mediterranean countries, Dumas said: "It is high time to envisage a meeting of the 'Nine', i.e. the five UMA member countries and the four EEC countries of the southern Mediterranean (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy) at the level of foreign ministers to start a double dialogue, political and economic".

He proposed that the two communities work together to materialize "a more ambitious dream, a larger project: that of a conference on security in the Mediterranean that will involve all Mediterranean countries".

The conference, to be on the pattern of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, will attempt to settle security and development problems, the French official said.

Dealing with the Middle East issues, Dumas recalled that France had initiated several moves to avert the Gulf war and that after the failure of all moves for a peaceful settlement, it sided with international law. He renewed France's backing to the Palestinians' rights to a land and a state as well as its support to the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East. As to the Lebanese issue, he said "Lebanon is progressively

recovering its sovereignty thanks to the al-Ta'if accords and to the backing of the Syrian Government".

Dumas also dealt with the Iraqi repression against the Kurdish people saying it is a genuine genocide of this people and a serious violation of human rights. Dumas stressed the need not to ease pressures on Iraq till a solution is found. During his short visit to Rabat Thursday, Dumas conferred with King Hassan II and several member of the Cabinet.

Dumas on Democracy, Progress

LD0504133791 Paris International Service
in French 0635 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is expected in Nouakchott, Mauritania, today for a short working visit. He is currently in Morocco, where he mentioned human rights issues.

[Begin Dumas recording] In places where progress toward democracy has been registered, where democratic procedures have been established, things run smoothly, and development follows. It was not necessarily thanks to foreign aid only, but because the progress of democracy provoked a new [word indistinct] sentiment in the country, new working conditions, new social relations, and from there a good balance was achieved. Conversely, in places where democratic principles were not applied, political and social upheavals took place, and these upheavals compromised the balances in these countries. [end recording]

The French minister added that cultural habits, customs, and history should be taken into consideration, but that they could not serve as excuses for inaction. Roland Dumas, who was received yesterday by King Hassan II, proposed a plan to boost cooperation with Morocco and the other Maghreb countries. France sees itself as the advocate of these countries within the European Economic Community. [passage omitted]

Meets Hassan; Departs

LD0504135791 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT
5 Apr 91

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 5 (MAP)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas conferred here Thursday with King Hassan II on issues related to the postwar Gulf as well as on the Lebanese problem and the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian issues.

Speaking at a news conference during his short visit to Morocco Thursday, Dumas said he noted "with satisfaction" that Moroccan and French viewpoints on these issues converged. "A fact that will enable us to take joint action", he said.

He said the friendship message he conveyed the Moroccan sovereign from President Francois Mitterrand renews the invitation extended to King Hassan II to visit

France. The invitation is still open and the sovereign is welcome in France anytime, he said.

He added that his talks with the sovereign also tackled economic and financial issues, political prospects, and the Sahara issue settlement. "The Sahara issue is an element of the Moroccan policy", said Dumas, who raised the topic with his Moroccan peer adding he would discuss prospects of its settlement at the meeting he is having in the few coming days with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. He pointed out that France which backs the UN secretary general's moves in favor of a referendum (in the Moroccan Saharan provinces formerly under Spanish rule) hopes the consultation be held the soonest possible to shelve the dossier once and for all.

As to Moroccan-French financial cooperation discussed with the Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada, Dumas said France "will extend its support to Morocco in talks with the International Monetary Fund and the 'Club de Paris', a grouping of money lending banks."

The French official, on the other hand, expressed appreciation for the denationalization process Morocco has embarked on and called on French investors to actively participate in development projects in Morocco. He announced that the concerned French minister will visit Rabat in the coming days to explore means of reactivating the sector of tourism in Morocco adversely affected by the Gulf crisis.

The French foreign minister said further that Moroccan-French exchanges are good for the time being and that France is envisioning to promote with Maghreb countries, and particularly Morocco, a new kind of relations based on economic, financial, and cultural partnership.

As to Moroccan-French cultural relations, Dumas said they will center on the exchange of youth, university cooperation, and designing courses to prepare Moroccan students to French higher education schools. Agreements on the monitoring of French TV broadcasts in Morocco via satellite will be concluded, he said.

The head of French diplomacy left Morocco Friday heading for Mauritania, the next leg of his Maghreb tour.

Saudi Arabian Joint Forces Commander Visits

Arrives 5 Apr; Praises Ties

LD0504224191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT
5 Apr 91

[Text] Rabat, 5 Apr (SPA)—His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the Air Defense Forces [title as received] has hailed the strong brotherly relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Morocco, depicting them as an example which should be followed at all levels.

In a statement upon arrival in Rabat this evening, his highness said that his visit to fraternal Morocco is on the instruction of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to convey his greetings to his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, and to the Government and people of Morocco for their continued support for just causes.

He hailed King Hassan's wisdom and rationality, describing him as one of the main pillars for strengthening bonds between Arab and Islamic countries. His highness the staff lieutenant general pointed out that he will be briefing King Hassan on the efficiency of the Moroccan forces, which are part of the joint forces.

Received by King Hassan II

LD0704012191 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Excerpt] We have just received this report. His Majesty King Hassan II, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, received this evening at the Royal Court in the Royal Palace in Rabat His Royal Highness Staff General Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud, commander of the joint forces and the theater of operations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who was accompanied by a military delegation and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Rabat, Shaykh Ali Majid Qabbani. [passage omitted]

Iraq Solidarity Group on 'Devilish' U.S. Plot

LD0104170891 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT
1 Apr 91

[Text] Rabat, Apr 1 (MAP/POOL/UMA)—The Moroccan Committee for Solidarity with the Iraqi People has denounced "the devilish plot" against Iraq's territorial integrity and expressed hope that the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) play its Arab and historical role in foiling the plot.

In a statement circulated Sunday, the committee denounced the maintaining of the embargo against the Iraqi people, despite the cease-fire. It said imperialism seeks to implement a devilish plot by protracting instability, weakening the people's unity, and undermining the country's territorial integrity.

U.S.-led imperialism, the statement pointed out, seeks to consecrate its permanent military presence in the Arab Gulf region to impose its hegemony on the countries of the region and protect the Zionist entity, unfairly transplanted inside the Arab nation, on the Palestinian soils.

Besides, the Western-imperialist coalition is now about to share the spoils of war through what they called reconstruction and war damage compensation, a fact that will mortgage the region for several years, the statement said.

Denouncing the repression campaign against the Palestinians in Kuwait, the committee hailed the resistance of the Arab people in occupied Palestine and pointed out that the Palestinian issue cannot be settled without the participation and consent of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The committee finally expressed hope that UMA (gathering Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) play its Arab and historical role and contribute to erasing the consequences of the Western-imperialist aggression against the Arab nation. It also hoped the grouping would serve as an example for edifying a genuine Arab unity.

Hassan Receives Jordanian Foreign Minister

LD2703174491 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Text] Rabat, Mar 27 (MAP)—King Hassan II conferred Tuesday evening here with visiting Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

The audience was attended by Abdellatif Falali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, advisers of the sovereign Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Bensouda, and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ahmed Cherkaoui.

Al-Masri, currently touring Maghreb countries, conferred earlier in the afternoon with Filali on the present situation of the Arab world.

At the end of the meeting, he told the press his talks with Filali were fruitful and showed a similarity of views in many respects. Al-Masri further underlined the necessity to coordinate joint Arab action, especially after the Gulf crisis, with a view to finding a solution to the Palestinian issue.

The Jordanian minister arrived Tuesday morning in Morocco, coming from Tunisia where he transmitted a verbal message from King Husayn to Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali.

Reportage on Filali Visit to France

WA0104204391

For reportage on the visit by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali to France, including reports on his talks with Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, please see the France section of the 1 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Sudan

SPLA Captures Town; Urges Juba Uprising

EA0104174291 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT
1 Apr 91

[Excerpts] In their continuing drive against the enemy, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of the Bright Star Campaign, Stage Three, Sector Three units of (Gojam), Lion, and elements of commando yesterday, Sunday, 31 March 1991, at 10 AM captured the strategic garrison town of Rokon 50 miles west of Juba on Juba-Yambio road. The whole battalion was destroyed. After the capture of Maridi, Mundri, and Ieri, Rokon remained the only enemy garrison before Juba.

With yesterday's capture of Rokon, Juba has now remained naked and SPLA forces of Bright Star Campaign will hit Juba from any direction any time from now. SPLA (Woyee), Juba (Woyee), new Sudan (Woyee), 'Umar barrah [Arabic for out]. [martial music]

Rokon was denied by a full enemy battalion commanded by Colonel Charles Ogwen. The battalion commander was killed in the first day of fighting. His deputy was seriously wounded, more than 100 soldiers killed and another 200 wounded. After three days of very heavy fighting, the gallant Bright Star Campaign Sector Three forces stormed and took the garrison yesterday, 31 March 1991, the last day of March 1991. The remnants of the enemy soldiers fled towards Juba in broad daylight and under fire, both leaving behind all their guns and sustaining very heavy casualties. SPLA forces are now in firm control of Rokon and advancing on Juba from all directions. [martial music] [passage omitted]

Before the attack on Juba starts, the SPLA here publicly asks the civilian population and civil authorities of Juba to discuss now ahead of time what to do with families, women, children, indeed what to do with the all the nonmilitary population of Juba so that unnecessary loss of life is avoided. By making this announcement, the SPLA acts in the spirit of national reconciliation and responsibility.

The SPLA is willing to discuss and consider options or suggestions. One option is for the population of Juba to organize a popular uprising inside Juba under the SPLA so that the SPLA takes over Juba by people's force and this avoids artillery bombardment and the destruction of Juba.

A second option is for families to be evacuated behind SPLA lines and for SPLA to evacuate them to centers for displaced people, where international relief organizations will take care of them. We ask you to discuss this and other suggestions you may have and to let the SPLA know within five days from 15 hours today, 1 April 1991. [martial music] [passage omitted]

All SPLA cells, supporters, and sympathizers inside Juba town are here asked to intensify their activities at this very crucial moment. To the officials in Juba, in the Army, police, game, prisons, militia, and other government departments: We want once more to reassure you that the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]/SPLA is your movement and now is the time for you to make your effective contribution.

To all those who, for one reason or the other, were hostile to the SPLA we here assure you that the SPLM/SPLA is not a vindictive movement. A movement for the liberation of the oppressed cannot be vindictive. It must be understanding, humane, and forgiving. The proof of this policy is that the SPLM/SPLA forgave people like Daniel Kuot Matthews, the former governor of Upper Nile who turned the Anyanya Two into a government militia against SPLA under former dictator Numayri. D.K. Matthews was pardoned and he is now an SPLM/SPLA representative abroad.

To all those who were forced by some circumstances to be hostile to the SPLA, the SPLA here publicly assures you that this is the time for reconciliation and unity. Abandon the past and participate in the people's movement.

The chairman and commander in chief, John Garang de Mabior, appeals to the residents of Juba town to unite their ranks behind the SPLM/SPLA, to become SPLM/SPLA members, and to play their historic role. To those in the Army, police, game, prisons, militia, and other government departments: abandon 'Umar al-Bashir's National Islamic Front and take the fight of the people to join the SPLA to bring down the National Islamic Front junta. To the masses inside Juba town: It is the turn of Juba to play the role of the Sudanese popular uprising—intifadah—in conjunction with the SPLA. The physical presence of the SPLA as a strong, well-organized, victorious army of the oppressed is a sure guarantee of the victory of a popular uprising in Juba. People of Juba: Awake! History is upon you! Rise up! This is the time, the SPLA is at the gates of Juba! Uprise now! SPLA (Woyee)! New Sudan (Woyee)!

Spokesman on 'Significant Victory' in Equatoria

EA0304215691 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Awaydah, the Armed Forces spokesman, stated that our valiant forces have succeeded in scoring a significant victory against the outlaws and teaching them a stern lesson in Equatoria. He stated that the General Command made some mobilization movements at the forces' positions aimed at destroying the outlaws in the area around Maridi. The Armed Forces clashed with the outlaws last night and a ferocious battle ensued in the western Equatoria area after which they fled, leaving behind hundreds of dead, armored vehicles, cars, heavy and light weapons, and ammunition.

The Armed Forces spokesman said the communique confirms that our valiant forces will remain the shield of the motherland, a guarantee of peace and stability, and a refutation of all lies and fabricated claims by the rebel movement.

SPLA Spokesman Reconfirms Fall of Maridi

EA2803164691 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Yesterday, 'Umar al-Bashir's junta officially denied the fall of Maridi over Radio Juba and insisted that their forces were still in the main garrison. The radio went further to accuse the BBC of picking up and broadcasting SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] propaganda without confirming the fall of Maridi.

Replying to this, the official spokesman of the SPLA said: It was very unfortunate that 'Umar's junta should so blatantly lie to its own troops and to the Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

Let no one be deceived. Maridi fell and fell with a big bang at midnight on Thursday, 23 of March 1991 [date as heard], and it will never get up again. As announced by Radio SPLA, the 3,000 troops that were in Maridi are destroyed and it is useless for General Headquarters, Khartoum, or Juba to look for them anywhere. Since the BBC is accused of broadcasting alleged SPLA lies, the BBC is here invited to go to Maridi and see for themselves who is in Maridi.

Al-Bashir Announces Coming Battle With Rebels

EA2803115291 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Khartoum, 28th March (SUNA)—RCC [Revolution Command Council] Chairman and C-in-C [commander in chief] of the Armed Forces General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir paid yesterday an inspection visit to the rank military area, Upper Nile State. Gen al-Bashir met during his visit with the officers, non-commissioned military area, affirming to them that the Armed Forces are fighting for faith, honour and dignity. General al-Bashir vowed that "the coming battle against the outlaws will be decisive, there will be no rebellions after this year. [no closing quote as received]

Deputy Chief of Staff Gen Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman 'Ali, who spoke at the outset, affirmed that the Armed Forces would inflict heavy casualties on the outlaws so that they would be obliged to come to negotiating table. Gen al-Bashir then addressed a mass rally organised by the Popular Defence Committees at rank.

Chairman al-Bashir was accompanied during the visit by RCC member Brig Pio Yukwan, RCC secretary-general Col 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn and other senior Armed Forces officers.

Al-Bashir Vows Army To Rout Rebels 'Soon'

EA2703154091 Khartoum SUNA in English 0934 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 27 Mar (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council (RCC) chairman, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, yesterday received bayah (oath of allegiance) from the commander, officers, non-commissioned officers and men of Omdurman military area. Addressing the occasion, commander in chief Gen. al-Bashir reiterated the revolution keenness to boost the Armed Forces, hailing its backing of the application of Islamic shari'a laws in the country.

He said the revolution erupted to rid the country of injustice and corruption and man-made laws, affirming that laws that govern the society should be based on the society traditions and heritage. (?Work) in the Armed Forces is considered as (?jihad) after the adoption of the Islamic shari'a laws, the RCC chairman stressed. He vowed that the Armed Forces, with the willpower of its men, will rout the rebellion movement soon, noting that the revolution would continue to develop the Armed Forces to enable it to defend the country, its honour and belief.

The occasion was also addressed by the commander of Omdurman military area, Brigadier Muhammad al-Sanusi Ahmad, commending the steps taken by the revolution to islamize life in Sudan. [passage omitted]

RCC Member Receives Iraqi Ambassador

EA2703132091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1708 GMT
26 Mar 91

[Text] Khartoum, 26 March (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, Col Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad al-Karrar, today, received the Iraqi ambassador to Sudan, 'Abd-al-Samad Hamid al-Ta'ish, and reviewed with him bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest in various domains.

'Unauthorized Arms' To Be Collected in Darfur

EA0304202891 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT
3 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Apr (SUNA)—The National Salvation Revolution has decided to collect unauthorised arms from private citizens in Darfur state (region) of western Sudan. This was announced by RCC [Revolution Command Council] member and minister for interior, General Faysal Ali Abu-Salih, who pointed out that citizens would be paid back the value of their arms.

General Abu-Salih has urged citizens to come together for a lasting settlement to issues of differences in the state of Darfur. Abu Salih, who is on a tour in Darfur, said the Ministry of Interior has decided to extend full support to security and other regular forces in the state of Darfur.

Foreign Ministry To Close Embassies in Europe

EA0304203491 Khartoum SUNA in English 1016 GMT
3 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Apr (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry has started reviewal of posts at both diplomatic and administrative levels as a prelude for bringing down the number of posts in the Sudanese embassies, director of the Administrative Department at the Ministry said. Syd Nuri Khaleel Hamid [name as received] said the move comes within the government's general policy.

He said a number of embassies in European states are to be closed while others would be (?shrunk) to the level of charge d'affaires. He said the move was to curb government expenditures and rationalise hard currency uses. He said Sudan was now moving towards east Asian states and western African countries. Sudan opened new embassies last year in Namibia and Zambia.

Curfew Hours Reduced for Ramadan Prayers

EA0604172891 Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Apr (SUNA)—The curfew hours were reduced by the authorities by one hour as of today to allow people to perform tahajjud prayers (night prayers) held at the last days of the fasting month of Ramadan. The commander of the central military area, Major General 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, issued an order yesterday that the curfew will be as of today from 0100 AM to 0400 in the morning. The curfew hours shall return to the previous time by the end of Ramadan, Maj Gen 'Uthman said.

Cabinet on Failure To Support Islamic Center

EA0104130091 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council chairman, met in his office at the General Secretariat this afternoon with Dr. Ali Ibrahim al-Yahya, director general of the African Islamic Center, in the presence of Mr. 'Abdallah Deng, minister of guidance and orientation, and Dr. Shams al-Din Zayn al-Abidin, chairman of the Center's trustees. The meeting discussed the condition of the Center and ways of solving the problems that impair its progress. Meanwhile, the following statement was issued by the Council of Ministers concerning the present conditions at the African Islamic Center:

In the name of God, the most merciful, the compassionate. On the basis of the note by his excellency the minister of guidance and orientation concerning the African Islamic Center, and after examining the Center's goals, the circumstances that led to its establishment, and its achievements to date, which include facilitating advanced learning and university opportunities and offering advanced training to the African youth leaderships; taking into consideration the conditions that have

arisen, accompanied its development, and impaired its progress for some years due to the failure by some countries to honor their financial commitments, which amount in total to \$21 million—something that has necessitated the freezing of the Center's budget at the same level for the past six years—in fact, it has been reduced;

That all this comes at a time when the Center's ambitions require expansion and development; after taking note of the efforts made to redress this dire situation and the failure of the participating countries, the latest efforts being the meeting which his excellency the minister of guidance and orientation held with the ambassadors of the relevant states during the first week of February, and of the failure of the meeting of the Center's Board of Trustees, which was to have taken place during the first week of the current month of March, something that aggravated and complicated the problem;

In light of this knowledge and its application to the future of the Center so that it can execute and develop its Islamic message, the Sudanese Government is convinced of the need to intervene quickly to cover the deficit and shoulder its responsibilities, in view of the fact that this is the country in which it is based and upon which the consequences of its shortcomings fall. The Sudanese Government has therefore decided on the following:

1. The Sudanese Government shall provide, in addition to its fixed share, the sum required to cover the deficit that has arisen as a result of some countries failing to pay their contributions so as to guarantee the continuation of the Center in discharging its message;

2. A temporary Board of Trustees shall be formed to deal with the extraordinary emergency conditions. The board's membership is invited from Islamic countries and establishments and all those whose circumstances allow them to join

and who are concerned enough to participate in supporting the Center and [word indistinct] to achieve its educational and propagational purpose;

3. The above-mentioned board shall be given full powers and the privileges stipulated in the headquarters agreement;

4. In the light of the Sudanese Government's increasing interest in Africa and Africa's dire need for advanced educational opportunities and in the framework of the ongoing educational revolution in the country, it has been decided to elevate the status of the African Islamic Center to an independent university to be known as the International University of Africa.

5. The Center's systems and regulations are to be reviewed with a view to making them correspond with those of universities and suitable for the anticipated development.

6. Regulations for the membership of the Board of Trustees shall be formulated by which the countries and institutions shall be committed to their contributions and shall define the measures to be followed to differentiate between those countries adhering to their commitments and those which do not;

7. The Sudanese Government expressed its gratitude to all the establishing countries and renews its call to them to continue their support and honor their past commitments;

8. The minister for higher education and educational research is hereby entrusted with the task of supervising the temporary board and taking any measures he deems necessary to develop the institution and increase the rate of admission in addition to supporting it to ensure its continuation and fulfillment of the obligation entrusted upon it.

This task is for the sake of god.

Kuwait

Amir Gives Speech Marking End of Ramadan

LD0704205891 London KUNA in Arabic 1903 GMT
7 Apr 91

[Speech by Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah marking the end of Ramadan; date, place not given—formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Apr (KUNA)—Praise be to God, who possesses all that is in the heavens and on earth: To Him is the final praise, and He is wise and expert. Prayers and peace be upon Muhammad, the most honorable of prophets, master of messengers, and on his family and companions.

Brothers and sisters, sons of dear Kuwait everywhere. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. Praise be to God who has brought us together on our land, united our ranks, given us strength, and helped us to triumph over the tyrants. We would not have triumphed without him. May our martyrs receive mercy, may the plight of the missing be relieved, and may our wounded and injured obtain good health and recover. It has been customary for me to speak to you during the last 10 days of holy Ramadan, this honorable month, the month of fasting, worship, compassion, and closeness among family, relatives, friends, and all Muslims.

Ramadan this year carries lessons and examples for us Kuwaitis; it presents us with burdens and responsibilities and reveals for us facts and examples.

Brothers and sisters, God Almighty, whose capability is great and in accordance with whose judgment we are among the patient ones, ordained that our country should be occupied and that harm should afflict its people and all its institutions. We are not the first country to be occupied, but the savagery and brutality of the occupation which afflicted our country had no precedent in the long history of mankind. Its harshness and lack of humanity and the absence of morality and standards were a source of disgust and distress to all the peoples of the world. Nonetheless, this unparalleled brutality did not break the resilience of the Kuwaitis, who proved their existence at the present time as they proved it in the past. It did not weaken their hearts or shake their will to defend their land and homeland and confront the treacherous enemy; on the contrary, it strengthened their will and increased their determination to be committed to this good land, and in that they set a good example.

Every one of us undoubtedly is proud of his homeland and of the sons of his country. There is no difference between one individual and another. This ordeal has fused us together and turned us into one single body. It has shown the true nature of the Kuwaitis and the depth of their roots in this earth as well as their solidarity and support in the face of setbacks and ordeals.

This was not limited to men only. During the period of occupation, Kuwaiti women proved their qualities and firmness and assumed all kinds of hardship and suffering. They proved that they were not extravagant as some would wish to say, but were strong against the enemies of their country. This applies to those who were inside as well as those who were outside the country. We hope such solidarity and backing will remain strong among the sons of our homeland, because we have another difficult journey ahead of us: the reconstruction and rebuilding of our country to make it a homeland which is a source of pride, the fruit of our struggle and sacrifices.

Brothers and sisters, the ordeal of Kuwait revealed authenticity, deep-rootedness, and nobility when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia allowed its citizens and territory to be a target for vicious aggression for the sake of the liberation of Kuwait. To the brothers in Saudi Arabia, the people and government led by brother Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques; our brothers in the fraternal State of Bahrain, the people and government led by brother Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah; our brothers in the fraternal State of Qatar, led by Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani; our brothers in the United Arab Emirates, the people and government led by brother Shaykh Zayd Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan; our brothers in the fraternal Sultanate of Oman, the people and government led by brother Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id; the brothers in the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt, the people and government led by brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; and the brothers in the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic, the people and government led by brother President Hafiz al-Asad, we present all appreciation and praise.

All these brothers have proved that brotherhood and fraternity are not just empty words that are spoken, but a conviction that is firmly entrenched in the heart and emerges clearly at times of distress and tribulation. Words will not serve the purpose or express what is in our hearts when we try to express our thanks and gratitude. They have our deep thanks, appreciation, and gratitude.

We also praise the role played by friendly Islamic countries in the liberation of Kuwait and that of the friends—who are true to their pledges—members of the international coalition force who placed their capabilities to defend the right, the law, and noble ideals, led by the people of the United States of America and its government, and His Excellency President George Bush in particular; the people of the United Kingdom led by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her government led by John Major; the people of France and its government led by President Francois Mitterrand; the other coalition states; and those who morally supported us by rejecting and condemning the aggression in their declared stances.

I should not let this opportunity pass without praising the firm stances of the former British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

These positions will remain alive in the minds of the people of Kuwait. We will not forget those positions that were taken in support of injustice and tyranny and feigned to forget brotherhood and loyalty. "And some men there are whose saying upon the present world pleases thee, and such a one calls on God to witness what is in his heart, yet he is most stubborn in altercation." [Koranic verse] Almighty God tells the truth.

Brothers and sisters, we must return to God with clear and sound hearts after Almighty God has tested us with trial at the hands of despots that do not know God. In them Almighty God has showed us the wonders of his might; He dispersed their ranks, repelled their forces, instilled fear in their hearts, and made them the laughing stock of the world. He supported us against them by mobilizing the forces of good throughout the whole world to stand by our side and defend our homeland.

We would not have been able to overcome these trials, ordeals, and acts of sedition had it not been for the care of Almighty God, the care that never forgot us and was always watching us, protecting us, showing us mercy, moving evil and harm away from us. Victory would not have been attained had it not been for the will of God, who made available to us brothers who stood by our side to help right and repel wrongdoing, injustice, and tyranny. "You did not slay them, but God slew them." [Koranic verse] Let us kneel down to Almighty God, praising and thanking Him for His graceful mercy and generous favor. Let us work to win His satisfaction, to obey His orders, and to avoid what He has asked us to shun.

Brothers and sisters, let us draw the lesson from this experience that we should abide by the teachings of our true religion in all our affairs and apply our tolerant sharia [Islamic law] in all our affairs, and let us pray to God in a way that will reflect on all aspects of our lives.

We have struggled and fought, each one from his own position, for the sake of liberating our country. We should attach special importance to those who were martyred for the sake of their country, however, because God Almighty has honored them with martyrdom. They are better than all of us and are closer to God Almighty. For the sake of our martyrs, we should work hard and industriously to rebuild the homeland and protect it. The first duty we are faced with is to look after the welfare of the families of the martyrs, as duty obliges. A decree will be issued in this connection, in which we will take care of the rights of martyrs.

As for our sons the prisoners, we will have no peace of mind nor enjoy any rest until all prisoners are returned to their families. We will continue our industrious and determined search for all those who are still missing. We

pray to God Almighty to protect everyone and help bring back everyone's families and relatives. May God answer this call.

Also, Kuwait could never forget those non-Kuwaitis who were martyred or sacrificed in its defense, for we are a people who acknowledge gratitude and remember favors.

My brothers and sisters, consultation and popular participation in the affairs of the country had been a fact of life in our country. It is manifested in various ways. At the people's congress in Jeddah, however, we agreed on the return of the legislative life.

To honor this promise, we have decided that, once the situation has stabilized and life has returned to normal and the people of Kuwait have returned to the country, legislative elections should take place during next year, God willing, according to our Constitution.

The issue of women's participation in parliamentary life will be studied so that women will be able to perform their full role in building and developing society.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to brother members of the National Council who did not have the opportunity to give to and work for their country after the ordeal took place.

Brothers and sisters, we have seen fit, after all that the citizens have been subjected to, to ease their burdens and debts and have decided to write off their debts to commercial banks. We have also decided to write off the debts of the Credit and Savings Bank.

Regarding the holders of second-category citizenship—the status of those whose loyalty and allegiance are proved will be studied.

Brothers and sisters, immediately after the invasion of Kuwait the tyrant of Baghdad sent emissaries to the brother leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states in an attempt to convince them that he had invaded Kuwait to rid its people of their regime and that he had occupied Kuwait in response to a request by the popular revolution which had broken out against the existing regime. No one was taken in by these lies, however, nor did anyone listen to them.

We must now learn that lesson well so that this act of aggression is not repeated by any party. Kuwait cannot take more than it has taken already.

There is another matter to which I would like to alert you, and about which I would like you to be clear. The tyrant of Iraq is still there holding power in his country, and I warn my brother citizens to be careful and alert. Although he could not achieve his purpose this time, we cannot feel secure that he will not continue to plan for it, because the seeds of evil are within him and he may try to plant his evil in Kuwait. We cannot feel secure that he will not rely on a fifth column of his cronies among us to

undermine security and stability; I do not believe that Kuwait has been purged of them yet.

For this reason, the situation being what it is, our duty is to be aware and vigilant, taking into account the fact that the tyrant of Baghdad is very quick to sign agreements, treaties, and conventions; he is also very quick to turn his back on them and tear them up. He does not care, and he does not recognize the importance of keeping one's word and the sanctity of conventions. As a result, we are in a situation where we can have no trust at all in individuals of this type or in the persons representing him.

For this reason, I will ask our brothers and friends to keep their forces with us to help repel any crazy action that this tyrant might undertake as long as he is in power.

Brothers and sisters, we must now look at the future with shining hope. Let our hearts be filled with faith and our souls with trust. Let us go hand in hand to build a Kuwait radiating light and good, a Kuwait that spreads love, fraternity, and peace in its territory and among its brothers and friends.

May Almighty God make us successful and guide our steps on the road to good. He is the best master and best supporter. Peace and the blessings of God be upon you.

Opposition Figures React

NC0804073491 Paris AFP in English 0715 GMT
8 Apr 91

[By Nathaniel Harrison]

[Text] Kuwait City, April 7 (AFP)—Kuwaiti opposition figures on Sunday hailed a pledge by the country's amir to hold legislative elections next year but expressed disappointment at his failure to commit himself to the vote sooner rather than later. "We think that it is partly positive," said 'Abdallah Nibari, spokesman for an opposition group known as Democratic Forum.

"But we think it could be too long, especially since most of the political groups wished it (the election) to be in six months' time.

"We hope it will be at the beginning of next year and not at the end," he said after a 15-minute pre-recorded televised address by the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Shaykh Jabir promised to call legislative elections some time next year in accordance with the 1962 constitution.

Kuwait's secular and religious opposition groups, increasingly vocal since the emirate was liberated from Iraqi occupation in late February, have been pressing the amir for elections to restore the country's parliament. Shaykh Jabir suspended the body in 1986 after it had been sharply critical of the government and had—in the eyes of the authorities—abused its democratic privileges.

Opposition leaders charged that in suspending parliament the amir violated the constitution. Mr. Nibari said

that with no guarantee of elections early in 1992 the 1985 national assembly, which Shaykh Jabir suspended the next year, should be reconvened. But he took heart at the fact that the amir had vowed to hold elections in accordance with the constitution, thereby committing himself to the constitutional process.

Another member of Democratic Forum, engineer 'Isa Salaf, described the amir's speech as "half a loaf."

"If it's (the election) within a year, it can be swallowed and dealt with. There's a margin of political wrangling that can take place."

Shaykh Jabir also pledged to consider the revocation of restrictions denying the right to vote to women and to what are known here as "second category Kuwaitis," those whose families came to the emirate after 1920. Such a move, according to Mr. Nibari, "would relieve conflict in the society and correct a wrong-doing in the past."

The Kuwaiti government resigned March 20 in the face of mounting public dissatisfaction with the slow pace at which essential public services were being restored in the aftermath of liberation. Opposition figures have maintained that the amir's reluctance to commit himself to a firm date for parliamentary elections has since then dissuaded many political leaders from agreeing to serve in a new cabinet.

Most members of the opposition remained in the country and endured seven months of Iraqi occupation. Emboldened by the experience of resistance—and in some cases imprisonment at the hands of the Iraqis—they have increased demands for greater democracy in Kuwait and for a reduced political role for the royal family.

Prime Minister Receives Turkish Counterpart

LD0404221491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 2044 GMT 4 Apr 91

[From the "Kuwait Message" program]

[Text] Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, conferred yesterday with Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut, who is currently visiting Kuwait. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and members accompanying the Turkish prime minister.

Envoys Said Recalled for Consultations

PM2803121291 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic
24 Mar 91 p 1

[Fatimah Mansur report: "Kuwait Downgrades Diplomatic Representation With Six Arab States That Supported Invasion"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] An authoritative Foreign Ministry source has said that the ministry has urgently recalled the Kuwaiti ambassadors to Sudan, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, Yemen, and Jordan to consult directly with them on these states' positions toward the State of Kuwait in the light of the Iraqi invasion of its territory. These states did not take account of the Arabism, friendship, and brotherhood that bound them with the State of Kuwait.

Asked whether Kuwait intends to sever relations with these states because of its positions, the source said in an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA that Kuwait had not yet adopted a position on that issue. But as a response to the six states' position toward Kuwait, the level of diplomatic representation would be downgraded to the charge d'affaires level.

With regard to the states that supported Kuwait's rights, he emphasized that there would be a basis for staunch relations with these states, whether Arab or non-Arab, at all political and economic levels. He pointed out that this is Kuwait's natural response to those who supported right against injustice, tyranny, and inhuman aggression.

Saudi Arabia

Iraqi Opposition Statement Claim Denied

LD0504213691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] A responsible source has denied that there is any truth in what was mentioned in a statement by the voice of the Iraqi opposition issued in London yesterday to the effect that the meeting of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, with Dr. Muwaffaq al-Rubay'i had resulted in the agreement of the government of the Kingdom to some matters mentioned in the statement concerning current conditions in Iraq. The source added that there was no discussion of those matters at all during the meeting.

Further on Denial

LD0604182591 Riyadh SPA in English 1209 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Riyadh, April 6, SPA—An official source categorically denied last night a report contained in a statement issued by quarters of the Iraqi opposition in London which said that the Government of the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia had agreed upon matters pertaining to the current situation in Iraq at a meeting between Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, and Dr. Muwaffaq al-Rubay'i.

The matters mentioned in the statement released by the Iraqi opposition were not at all discussed at the meeting, the official source said in a statement to SPA.

Paper Assails Saddam Action Against Kurds

LD0704130891 Riyadh SPA in English 1240 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Riyadh, April 7, SPA—A Saudi English newspaper today said hopes that Iraq's total rout in Kuwait would make President Saddam Husayn more sensible are slowly fading. "His brutalization of the people of Kuwait resulted in a most severe global reaction dealing a lethal blow to the Iraqis. That has not made him less violent or bloody as is evident from the harsh crackdown on the Kurds," RIYADH DAILY said.

"Husyan's terror campaign aimed at subduing the Kurds has doubtlessly elicited a harsh response worldwide. All civilized nations have condemned his atrocities. The Security Council's unprecedented criticism of his actions reflects global sympathy for the Kurds and total revulsion at what is going on in the Kurdish areas of Iraq.

"The Kurds are fleeing in droves to sanctuaries in neighbouring countries. Doubtlessly, they pose a threat to the economic stability of the countries giving them refuge. It is, therefore, only natural for Iran and Turkey to be concerned and seek the help of the United Nations. In such circumstances, the negative stand of a handful of nations on the U.N. resolution condemning Iraq for atrocities against the Kurds has no logical or national basis at all.

The resolution's main demand for an open dialogue to take place to ensure that the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens are respected, is not too much for Saddam to accede. The Iraqi leader must realize that only this will end the current internecine strife and bring a semblance of stability and normalcy to Iraq.

"With its invasion of Kuwait, Iraq became a pariah nation. Saddam Husayn's repression of the Kurds will sink Iraq deeper into the mire. Its reputation will be beyond salvaging. Saddam Husyan must certainly have the sense to avoid such a dismal fate," it added.

National Assembly Accepts UN Resolution 687

NC0704045991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0300 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The National Assembly yesterday held its first meeting of its spring session under the the chairmanship of Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn and Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs. After extensive discussions, the assembly voted to accept [qabulahu] UN Security Council Resolution 687 with 160 votes in favor and 31 against.

At the beginning of the session, Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih delivered a speech in which he described the UN Security Council resolution as an unjust and unprecedented resolution on the part of the international organization in terms of its substance and unfairness. He added that this unjust resolution serves as more proof of the United States's domination through the use of the material power it possess, as well as the threats and pressure it applies against others. This resolution has also come to prove the United States' domination over the destinies of the international community and its control over the world's fate. He added: This resolution, along with all the resolutions issued by the Security Council against Iraq since 2 August 1990, provides absolute evidence that the United Nations and the Security Council have turned into organizations that have no aim but to implement U.S. orders and instructions. Thus, this international organization, as well as the Security Council, has lost its credibility and its role as protector of security and peace in the world. All this has made the people of the world—particularly the oppressed and unjustly treated peoples—lose hope in them.

The speaker of the National Assembly noted that this resolution constitutes a serious international precedent that will have negative consequences and effects on the entire course of international relations and on the international community. He added that it will lead to more disturbances and problems in the world in general and in the Middle East in particular, as it had (?denied) Iraq's rights while giving America and Israel all that they want. It also reflects the double standard used by the United Nations and the Security Council in handling the problems of the region.

In his speech, the Assembly speaker denounced the disgraceful and unjust conduct governing the work of the international organizations, which originally came into being to uphold truth, defend those unjustly treated in the face of unjust people, and protect and [word indistinct] the rights of the ill-treated people. During the session, it was decided to adjourn the assembly's sessions until 20 April.

Foreign Minister Comments

NC0704064591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0310 GMT 7 Apr 91

["Text" of letter by Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir to the UN Security Council president and the UN secretary general on "Iraq's position on Security Council Resolution No. 687 of 1991;" issued in Baghdad on 6 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency, I have the honor to inform you that the Iraqi Government has familiarized itself with the contents of UN Security Council Resolution No. 687 of 1991. Those who adopted this resolution were the first to admit that it is unprecedented in the history of the international organization. Before outlining its official stand, the Iraqi Government would like to make some substantial remarks on the concepts underlying the resolution and the provisions it contains.

1. Although its preamble affirms that Iraq is an independent and sovereign state, many of the resolution's unjust provisions do not respect this sovereignty. On the contrary, the resolution encroached [ta'arrada] on this and on the state's sacred rights, as acknowledged under the UN Charter and international law and norms, in an unprecedented manner. Regarding the question of borders, the UN Security Council imposed a specific status on the issue of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, although it is legally and practically acknowledged in international affairs that border issues should be decided by the countries concerned. Only in this way can border stability be realized.

Furthermore, the council's resolution did not take account of Iraq's well-known position that the provisions relating to the issue of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border in the document known as the joint minutes on the resumption of cordial relations, recognition, and related matters of 4 October 1963 have not completed the required constitutional procedures for ratification by the Iraqi legislative authorities and head of state. The border issue is thus still pending. The council has imposed a border with Kuwait on Iraq. By proceeding in this strange way, the council itself invalidated a provision of resolution 660, which was the the basis for the subsequent resolutions the council had passed.

The third paragraph of resolution 660 calls on Iraq and Kuwait to settle their dispute through negotiations. As is well known, the border issue is one of the most important differences between the two countries. Iraq has officially notified the council of its acceptance of resolution 660 and its readiness to implement it. The council has, however, ignored this legal position, contradicted its earlier resolutions, and issued an unfair resolution imposing new conditions on Iraq. It has imposed a specific border status on Iraq, an independent and sovereign country and a member of the United Nations, and has thus deprived it of its right to seek its regional rights in accordance with the principles of international law. The council has also deprived Iraq of its right to

exercise its free will and has prevented it from being able to register full satisfaction with those borders.

The provisions of the council's resolution regarding the border issue are unfair and set a serious precedent in the history of this international body, a precedent which derogates the sovereignty of states. This was confirmed by a number of impartial members of the council in their interpositions during the vote on the resolution.

It must also be noted that the United States of America, which proposed the original draft for resolution No. 687, which imposes solutions to the border dispute and other disputes between Iraq and Kuwait, refuses to impose any solutions on its ally Israel in accordance with the charters and resolutions approved by the United Nations and international law. Furthermore, the United States of America has prevented the UN Security Council from shouldering its responsibilities toward the Arab-Zionist conflict and Israel's policy of annexing the occupied Arab territories, building settlements, expelling residents, and denying the rights of the Palestinian people and the neighboring Arab countries by vetoing any draft resolution approved by all other council members solely because Israel refuses to accept a resolution that seeks a just solution to the conflict.

2. Iraq's position on the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons is clear. It is a party to the Geneva 1925 protocols regarding the prohibition of the use in war of incendiary and poisonous gas or similar means of bacteriological warfare.

In a statement issued in September 1988, Iraq reiterated its resolute abidance by and respect for the provisions of these protocols. Furthermore, it had participated in the member states' conference and the 1925 Geneva protocols as well as in the conference of other parties concerned which convened in Paris 7-11 January 1989. Iraq also signed the declaration issued by the participating states.

During this conference, Iraq adopted a stand which was unanimously supported by all Arab countries. This stand provides for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East region.

Furthermore, Iraq is a party to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty of 1 July 1968 and honors its commitments under this treaty, as has been confirmed in numerous reports issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The UN Security Council resolution is binding on Iraq alone. It calls on Iraq to destroy some of the remaining nonconventional weapons still in its possession, but these weapons and other relevant installations were completely destroyed as a result of the military operations launched against Iraq by the coalition of 30 states. At the same time, the security council has allowed other states in the region, particularly Israel, to keep such weapons, including nuclear weapons. Moreover, the

council ignored its own resolution No. 487 of 1981 wherein it called on Israel to place all its nuclear installations under international control. Unlike the present situation in which the council is seeking to impose its stand against Iraq, the council failed to follow up on the implementation of the earlier resolution.

Hence, the provisions of the resolution demonstrate flagrant favoritism [intihaziyan sarikhatan] in dealing with the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the region. They also upset the balance of armament in it, particularly because these weapons have not been used by Iraq. The application of this part of the resolution would unquestionably cause a serious imbalance in the region, as was confirmed by a number of security council members in their interpositions during the vote on the resolution. Undoubtedly, the expansionist aggressor Israel—which occupies the land of neighboring countries, usurps the rights of the Arab Palestinian people, applies the most brutal measures against the Palestinian people, rejects security council resolutions, and treats all international resolutions with contempt—is the main beneficiary of this imbalance.

While emphasizing the need for all states to join the agreement prohibiting the development, production, and storing of bacteriological and (?toxic) weapons, as well as the need to work out and join an agreement on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons, the resolution in the meantime completely ignores the need for all states to join the agreement banning nuclear weapons. The resolution also ignores the need to work out an agreement on a comprehensive ban on these weapons in the region. Instead, the resolution underlines the need to initiate dialogue among the region's countries to realize the so-called goal of achieving a balanced and comprehensive limitation of weapons in the region.

Among the points which confirm the biased and unjust nature of the resolution, the council [word indistinct] of what it calls the use of (?ballistic) missiles in unprovoked attacks and demands the destruction of all (?ballistic) missiles with a range exceeding 150 km, as well as their maintenance and production plants in Iraq. The reference to unprovoked attacks is an allusion to the attacks against Israel, which itself launched an unprovoked attack in 1981 and destroyed Iraqi nuclear establishments which were dedicated to peaceful purposes and which were open to international inspection.

In resolution 487 of 1981, the UN Security Council unanimously acknowledged that that attack represented a serious threat to the control system of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which represents the essence of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

In this resolution, the council also recognized Iraq's right to obtain reparations for the damage it suffered as a result of that aggression. The council has not implemented the [word indistinct] resolution until this day. In the meantime, the council imposes very strict and unjust terms and mechanisms when dealing with the issue of

reparations in the current resolution. Thus, the council ignores even the most fundamental humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people.

3. Iraq's internal and external security has been and continues to be subjected to serious threats. There are constant attempts to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs by military means. Therefore, the measures adopted by the council against Iraq, which infringe on its lawful right to acquire weapons and military equipment for defensive purposes, directly contribute to these threats and to the destabilization of Iraq at the expense of its internal and external security, and thus have a negative effect on the safety, security, and peace of the entire region.

4. While the council's resolution outlines mechanisms for extracting reparations from Iraq, it makes no mention of Iraq's right to demand compensation for the enormous losses it sustained and the mass destruction which was inflicted on the installations and infrastructure intended to improve the quality of life as a result of the way in which the authority of resolution No. 678 of 1990 was conspicuously exceeded. These excesses were testified to by the UN secretary general's mission which visited Iraq recently, and were also raised by the head of state of a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and all impartial observers who have seen the outcome of military operations against Iraq.

The council has failed to explain to world public opinion and mankind's conscience the relationship between its resolution 678 and the deliberate destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, including power and water plants, irrigation dams, bridges, telephone exchanges, and factories producing infant formula and medicine, in addition to shelters, mosques, churches, markets, residential neighborhoods, and other facilities.

Moreover, the resolution allows others to demand reparations from Iraq for damages they sustained, even if such damage was the result of their failure to honor their commitments toward Iraq after the issuance of resolution 661.

The resolution also proves its unjust [word indistinct] view regarding compensations by requiring Iraq to pay compensation for damage done to the environment and the depletion of natural resources without having ascertained that Iraq was responsible for all of this. At the same time, the resolution [makes no mention of] the payment of any compensation to Iraq for the damage done to its environment and the depletion of its natural resources, although such damage is clear from the more than 88,000 tonnes of bombs dropped on it and the destruction of its water and electricity networks and sewage facilities, which caused the spread of diseases and epidemics and had other negative effects detrimental to the environment.

These stipulations in fact reflect a desire for revenge and for causing harm, and not a desire to uphold the pertinent stipulations of international law. Moreover, the

direct and practical results of enforcing these stipulations will affect the capabilities and resources of millions of Iraq's people and deprive them of the chance to lead dignified and honorable lives.

5. In resolution No. 661 of 1990, the council imposed binding comprehensive sanctions against Iraq on the grounds that it had not complied with resolution No. 660. It has maintained most of these sanctions despite the fact that Iraq has accepted all the council's resolutions and implemented many of their provisions. The council's latest resolution stipulated a process for gradually lifting these sanctions which will be carried out in an unspecified period of time. Thus, the council will enjoy wide [discretionary] authority that will be used by its influential members who controlled the formulation of the council's resolutions and who imposed them for subjective reasons that have nothing to do with international charters and law.

In effect, this approach means that the council has contradicted its original intent in imposing sanctions against Iraq, not to mention the fact that it failed to consider the losses the Iraqi people sustained and only took into consideration the interests of others, despite the fact that they are wealthy.

6. While the resolution concerns the official proclamation of a cease-fire, the council does not deal in it with the question of the withdrawal of the foreign forces occupying part of Iraqi territory in an explicit and definitive manner. The factors prompting the official proclamation of a cease-fire are the very factors that dictate the need for a withdrawal. Therefore, the failure to discuss withdrawal in an explicit and definitive manner is tantamount to granting a license for the continued occupation of Iraqi territory for a period of time that will depend on the [discretion] of the countries which exercise this occupation [words indistinct] that they use this occupation for political objectives and keep it as a card in their hands to achieve these objectives.

This stand by the council constitutes a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. It also explicitly exceeds any justification that can be claimed on the grounds of the council's resolution No. 678 of 1990. With the same deliberate selective and unjustified approach, the resolution stipulates that the observer forces are to operate within a range of 10 km on the Iraqi side and five km on the other side, although the terrain throughout this area is flat and contains no variations of features that would require the different distances.

Many mechanisms for the [words indistinct] implementation of its rules and provisions do not make it clear whether Iraq will [participate] in the mentioned negotiations or whether Iraq will be a basic party in the implementation of the resolution and a party that is primarily concerned with [words indistinct] in all the consultations that deal with implementation. Otherwise,

the council would have intended to act once again in a repressive and unfair manner.

Taken in their entirety, the issues which are raised in the resolution and which were the subject of these principled remarks constitute an unjust stand against the Iraqi people's right to life and a blatant disregard for their inalienable rights to sovereignty, independence, and free will.

The resolution's clauses, which establish the use of biased [intihaziyah] criteria in international dealings and of double standards in issues of a similar nature, in practice hold Iraq and its people hostage to the will of a number of superpowers so that they can control its resources and requirements of food, clothing, and the modern life which it seeks to achieve with dignity and pride.

Practicing such injustice and unfairness against a member state of the United Nations and its people cannot possibly be compatible with the principles and objectives of the UN Charter. The UN Security Council (?should) deal with the issues presented to it in an objective way that is in harmony with the provisions of international law and the principles of justice and fairness. Through this unfair resolution and its discrimination against the people of Iraq, the council proved something we have stressed constantly; namely, that the council has become the obedient tool of the United States to enable it to implement its desires and policies in the region. The main objective behind this is to protect Israel's policy of aggression and expansionism regardless of the statements, which are not accompanied by actions, about peace and justice in the Middle East made by this or that member of the Security Council which voted in favor of this resolution.

It is clear to all the world's honorable and fair people that these unfair and vindictive measures against Iraq are not a result of the events that took place on and after 2 August 1990. Their real motive is the fact that Iraq has not accepted the unfair situation which was imposed on the Arab nation and the regional states many decades ago and which made Israel the dominant aggressive power in the region with the most modern and destructive conventional weapons and the weapons of mass destruction it possesses, including nuclear weapons.

This fact confirms something Iraq had demonstrated before the events of 2 August 1990; namely, that Iraq was the target of a conspiracy that sought to destroy the resources it had provided to establish a just balance in the region that would have paved the way for the achievement of a fair solution and justice in it.

Regrettably, some states which originally had no desire to assist Israel and the United States to achieve their objectives, have, perhaps unintentionally, contributed to this very end by voting in favor of this unfair resolution.

Your Excellency: While making these principled, legal, and legitimate remarks to urge conscientious members

of the international community and world public opinion to understand the facts as they are and to uphold what is right, as it ought to be, Iraq finds itself before one alternative only: to accept this resolution.

Please ensure the distribution of this letter as a Security Council document.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

[Dated] Baghdad, 6 April 1991, corresponding to 21 Ramadan 1411 Hegira

UN Envoy Criticizes 'Unjust' Resolution 688

NC0804100791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT
8 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 8 Apr (INA)—Iraq has said that the unjust resolution on the situation in northern Iraq adopted by the UN Security Council under No. 688 represents yet another example of the council's use of double standards in dealing with Iraq when one considers the way in which the council dealt with the massacres perpetrated by the Zionist enemy authorities against the Palestinians on 8 October 1990.

This came in a message sent by Iraq's permanent UN representative on the resolution. The INA correspondent in New York said that the permanent representative has asked that the message be circulated as an official Security Council document.

Following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency: In the space of just 48 hours, the Security Council adopted yet another tendentious and unjust resolution against Iraq. The real nature of Resolution 688 can be seen in the fact that this resolution was issued even though the council had been advised Iraq was willing to receive a UN fact-finding mission.

Such disregard for Iraq's willingness sets a grave precedent in the Security Council's dealings with Iraq, dealings which have no parallel in the council's history.

In its resolution, the council once again applies a policy of double standards toward Iraq, when one considers, for example, the way in which the Security Council dealt with the massacre perpetrated by the occupying Israeli authorities against the Palestinians in the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem on 8 October 1990.

Now that Iraq has expressed its readiness to receive an international fact-finding committee, however, the council ignores this and issues its condemnation resolution. Furthermore, the resolution refers to what it calls "raids across the border." This is a fabrication, and the council has provided no evidence. The resolution also calls on Iraq to allow humanitarian and international organizations to carry out relief work. Such a provision and such a call is meaningless as these organizations are

actually working in Iraq and the Iraqi authorities are cooperating fully with them, as the organizations themselves have admitted.

It is paradoxical for the council to show interest in letters from Iran and Turkey regarding the conditions of the Kurds when the world is fully aware that these two countries do not even recognize any rights of the Kurds as an "independent nationality" in their countries where the majority of the Kurds exist.

The claims made in these letters are nothing but lies, extortion, and tendentious propaganda against Iraq, which has been and remains one of the vanguards among the countries of the region in dealing with the Kurdish issue in accordance with human and democratic methods. The legal, political, and practical facts in this regard are firm.

It is also paradoxical for countries like Iran, Syria, and the United States to instigate the agents and rebels against the authority in Iraq, to smuggle their agents across international borders, and to supply them with weapons and equipment. When the government authorities carry out their duty in restoring security and stability in the country and protecting the civilians against terrorism, murder, looting, sabotage, and other criminal actions committed by these agents, these same countries stir up defamation campaigns against Iraq and condemn the country.

The great majority of what is called refugees are peaceful people who were deceived and terrorized by the agents, who used false propaganda to make them flee their homes, and, when the rebels' hopes to impose their authority over the areas in which they spread corruption were dashed, they forced these people to flee by the force of arms.

[Signed] The permanent representative.

Paper Terms Resolution 'Pitiable'

NC0804085191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT
8 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that UN Security Council Resolution No. 688 is unjust by all accounts. The resolution does not defend Kurds as much as it aims to harm Iraq and therefore constitutes flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that anyone who follows UN Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq will note that they are hastily issued and that those top officials at the council do not trouble themselves to discuss matters in depth in order to give their resolutions greater credibility and bring up the outcome of their work above the level of suspicion.

The newspaper says that the haste with which a new anti-Iraqi resolution was passed is characteristic of the past few months during which the United States, Britain,

and their allies have applied intensive efforts to get infamous resolutions passed against Iraq. A total of 12 such resolutions were passed within a period not exceeding three months.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that Iraq said it was willing to receive a UN mission to investigate the situation in northern Iraq but the UN Security Council resolution ignored that fact. This proves that a number of the UN Security Council permanent members were not interested in knowing the facts but wanted to continue their campaign of defamation, lies, and falsification with the aim of tarnishing Iraq's reputation.

The newspaper says that the UN Security Council, having passed this new unjust resolution against Iraq, has a particular duty to expose all the facts to international opinion. It is illogical that the UN Security Council should proclaim concern for the Kurds in Iraq and at the same time ignore their situation in the neighboring countries. The Kurds in Turkey and Iran are living in great misery and are subjected to various types of oppression and persecution by the Turkish and Iranian regimes. The Kurds in Turkey and Iran have been subjected to mass massacres and they are not allowed to exercise national or cultural rights.

The newspaper says that Kurds in Iraq enjoy autonomous rule that guarantees their full national and cultural rights. Autonomy for Kurds in Iraq is the first such experiment in the region to grant them their rights. The Turkish and Iranian regimes had opposed the establishment of self-rule for Kurds in Iraq for fear that the Kurds of Turkey and Iran would subsequently request the same right.

The newspaper says: It seems that the influential members of the UN Security Council, particularly Britain, the United States, and France, expected the rebels to complete the aggressive chapter started by the 30-country alliance and to exhaust and divide the country. Iraq, however, stamped out the rebellion in the north, frustrating the aims of these same influential members once more. This is why these influential members of the UN Security Council took further measures to pass resolutions embodying their hatred for Iraq.

The newspaper concludes by saying: We in Iraq know the hidden motives for those who pull the strings in the UN Security Council, but we will not be affected with what is being concocted in secret and in the open. We will walk down the road that serves our people and the Arab nation, and we will reach our goals despite this pathetic and pitiable resolution by the UN Security Council.

Said To Interfere Internally

NC0604120491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has described the new, unjust resolution adopted at dawn today by the UN Security Council,

which was devoted to what it termed the condition of the civilian citizens in north Iraq, as an unjust resolution that aims to interfere blatantly in Iraq's internal affairs.

The editor said that the new resolution is unjust and blatant not only from Iraq's point of view, but also from the point of view of delegates at the UN Security Council and the United Nations. It represents a flagrant violation of the UN Charter.

The INA editor said that the council failed to consider Iraq's point of view; nor did it even listen to this point of view. He affirmed that this behavior is a premeditated and deliberate disregard of the most basic rights of an important UN member.

The editor pointed out that Iraq has expressed its readiness to receive any UN mission to get acquainted with the real situation in north Iraq. He maintained that the council disregarded this, although it was officially informed of this readiness yesterday. The INA editor went on to say that the resolution came to add more proof that the United States, Britain, and France do not want the world to know the truth. Rather, they insist on continuing the tendentious campaign of defamation, lies, and distortion in order to continue to defame Iraq's reputation and position. The resolution and its fabricated justifications are a part of this false campaign.

Alluding to the position of Iraq's neighboring countries—Iran and Turkey—the INA international affairs editor said that Iran and Turkey are the countries least entitled to speak about the suffering of the Kurds.

The INA editor emphasized that the lies and smear campaign launched by the Iranian regime in a bid to present itself as a modern country is far from its known reality as a backward, dictatorial, fanatic, and sectarian regime. It is the most hostile regime to the Kurds, and the most depriving of the Kurds' national rights.

The editor described Turkey's stand as hypocritical, adding that the regime in Turkey does not allow the Kurds to speak about the limiting of their national rights, let alone the practice of these rights. He said that the uproar fabricated by the regime in Turkey is aimed at covering up the methods of oppression, looting, and plundering in the Kurdish region in Turkey, which is the largest area inhabited by Kurds in the four countries—Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and the Soviet Union.

The editor recalled a truth to the effect that these two regimes have always objected to and rejected the 11 March declaration that granted national rights to the Kurds in Iraq. He added that they exhibited fear and concern over the exercise of these rights by the Iraqi Kurds. These two regimes have a shameful history to date, known to the Kurds and the sons of the region regarding the persecution of the Kurds and their national rights.

Concluding his commentary, the INA editor said: Iraqi Kurdish citizens, who are loyal to their people and soil,

have begun returning in the thousands to their towns, villages, and farms after the collapse of the rebellion carried out by hired gangs, agents of the foreigner, which only lasted for 11 days. The speedy collapse of the rebellion led to the disappointment of the United States, Britain, and France. This prompted them to peddle this weak, miserable resolution at the UN Security Council.

The editor added that the world is fully aware of the quite reassuring situation prevailing in Iraq's Kurdistan. This has been attested to by the large number of Western press and media correspondents, and the return of thousands of the sons of our Kurdish people to their towns and villages in al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and Dahuk yesterday. The correspondents conveyed photographs and recorded documents to the world. Our Kurdish people were fully convinced that their return followed the elimination of pressure and terrorism imposed on them by the rebel gangs.

Saddam Chairs RCC Meeting; Ministers Attend

NC0604073391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has chaired a Revolution Command Council [RCC] meeting. The council discussed the return to normalcy in the northern parts of the homeland and the latest political developments on the international arena.

Present at the meeting were comrades Sa'di Mahdi Salih and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party regional command; Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn; and Minister of Culture and Information Hamid Yusuf Hammadi.

New Defense Minister, Others Appointed

NC0604094791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0932 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—Four presidential decrees were issued today relieving Defense Minister Staff General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas of his post, and also relieving Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan of his post as minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister.

The decrees provide for the appointment of General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas as a military adviser to the president of the republic, Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan as minister of defense, and Lieutenant General Hammudi al-Sa'di as minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister.

The following is the text of the decrees:

Presidential Decree No. 110:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

1. Staff General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas shall be relieved of his post as defense minister.

2. He shall be appointed military adviser to the president of the republic, and shall maintain his military rank.

The ministers shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 21 Ramadan 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 6 April 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic.

Presidential Decree No. 111:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industries and acting oil minister, shall be relieved of his two posts.

The ministers will implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 21 Ramadan 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 6 April 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic.

Presidential Decree No. 113:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan shall be appointed defense minister.

The ministers shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 21 Ramadan 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 6 April 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic.

Presidential Decree No. 114:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammud al-Sa'di, under secretary of the ministry of industry and military industrialization, shall be appointed minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister.

The ministers shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 21 Ramadan 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 6 April 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic.

Ba'th Party's 44th Anniversary Celebrated

Saddam Gives Address

NC0704121491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1048 GMT
7 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA)—In an address on the 44th anniversary of the establishment of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, President Saddam Husayn has stressed that not a single country in the world, or any part of the Arab homeland that has not experienced the spirit of resurgence could have withstood what Iraq stood up to.

President Saddam Husayn added: The duel was a historic and cultural one, between one history and another, and between a civilization that has lost its spirit and a civilization that has revived its spirit for itself and humanity. Therefore, the duel has reminded Baghdad and the Arab nation of the historic conspiracy that

murdered the old civilization plan at the hands of the old barbaric forces in 1258 A.D. corresponding to 656 Hegira [the sacking of Baghdad by Hulagu Khan's Mongol army].

His excellency said: The current phase has recorded for Iraq the honor of confronting the historic conspiracy that targeted the nation's new pan-Arab civilization plan. Iraq's great steadfastness in the face of the evil forces' aggressive deployment and its defense of the spirit of resurgence in the nation has sincerely demonstrated the principled nature that characterizes the Ba'th Party's struggle.

He added: The crucial confrontation has shed a shining light on the life of the Arab nation and the course of the Arab and Islamic struggle. This confrontation has also set a historic scene for passing fair, just, and daring judgment on all practices, roles, and forces in this world, and in the Arab world in particular.

He said: We all stand in the mihrab [prayer niche] of history. We are required to tell the masses of our nation all the facts and to practice criticism and self-criticism. We are also required to expose faults, correct mistakes, and raise the pan-Arab struggle to a new level.

The president asserted that Arab strugglers have a duty to Iraq to profoundly contemplate the principled stance which Iraq recorded in the history of this pan-Arab stage by taking up the gauntlet in the face of the forces that have devoted modern technology to fighting all values, and how it managed, while riddled with wounds, to defeat one of the most outstanding chapters of the conspiracy against its territorial integrity and national unity.

His excellency added that it is our duty toward the Arab nation to make this epic of confrontation that took place on the land of Iraq, with all its chapters, a starting point toward a new level of thought, action, practice, and struggle—undaunted by challenges, no matter how great.

The president added: The 44th anniversary of the founding of the Ba'th Party confirms again that Ba'th thought has genuinely dealt with its pan-Arab heritage and modern thought, and that the Ba'th pan-Arab organization was an expression of rejection of partition and an assertion of the unity of the nation.

President Saddam Husayn explained, moreover, that the enemies of the nation devised their treacherous conspiracy based on the fact that the dawn of the Ba'th has illuminated the entire expanse of Iraq. However, thanks to this high, principled thought, the struggling positions of the Ba'th Party have been linked to a constant readiness to make sacrifices and respond to every pan-Arab appeal. It was according to this principled spirit that Iraq led the battle of confrontation with the enemies of the nation. Iraq's major and basic concern was to see that the principles of faith, jihad, and national and pan-Arab principles emerge victorious; and this has been achieved.

His excellency added: The current fateful confrontation has clearly revealed that national and pan-Arab action is still in need of a broader leap in the lives of the Arab masses and in the depths of the Arab self.

He asserted that pluralism in national and pan-Arab life is an objective fact, which caused awareness to mature. It is also a factor that enriches national and pan-Arab unity, as long as it rests on the responsible practice of democracy. Pluralism has also become a necessity and a fundamental requirement of pan-Arab battles to rid national and pan-Arab action all over the Arab homeland of the negative phenomena of the previous stage.

His excellency added that the present stage is one of unionist and democratic action and a special, unique struggle. This is what Iraq achieved prior to the current confrontation, and this is what Iraq has seriously grown accustomed to practicing.

Herewith the text of the speech: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Sons of our immortal Arab nation, O Ba'thist strugglers and sons of our noble Iraqi people: Under the canopy of these fateful pan-Arab circumstances in which the Arab nation was forced to face an historic test and Iraq to be at the vanguard of the nation to confront this challenge, emerges the essential significance of the establishment of your party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The 44th anniversary of this establishment takes place within a historical, militant, and unprecedented framework in the history of nationalist and pan-Arab confrontations of the resurgent peoples of the region in this age. That is why it reminds the genuine Ba'thists and the militant sons of the Arab nation, irrespective of their ideological and political affiliations, of the constant challenge the nation faces and that they all have to carry out at this stage a specific historical task. This task consists of having them all confront the challenges which engulf the nation's present and future as vanguards of the people wherever they may be.

The colonialist and Zionist forces have been indoctrinated to ignore the existence of the Arabs as a live nation, to insist on antagonizing Arabism and Islam, and to oppose the new pan-Arab civilization plan which seeks to restore the nation's historical status and effective humane role in the contemporary world, a world whose fate is being tampered with by the imperialist U.S. and Zionist forces which lead it to the brink of collapse after stripping it of its spiritual, moral, and ethical meanings.

Pan-Arab resurgence is an issue in which the Bath Party believed, inspiring the spirit and heritage of the Arab message. Certainly, any country in the world or any part of the Arab world not enjoying this spirit of resurgence would not have been able to confront what Iraq has confronted.

The battle was historic and cultural, between two histories, and between a culture lacking in spirit and another renewing its spirit for itself and for humanity. It reminded Baghdad and the Arab nation of the historical

conspiracy that killed the ancient cultural project at the hands of the old barbarian forces in 1258, corresponding to 656 Hegira.

Contemporary history has recorded Iraq's honor in confronting the historic conspiracy that targeted the new cultural pan-Arab project. Iraq's great steadfastness in the face of the aggressive and evil imperialist, Zionist, and Atlantic forces, and Iraq's observance of the spirit of resurgence in the nation honestly reflected the Ba'th Party's principled struggle.

Arab citizens: In these historical moments in the life of the nation and the Arab struggle, one must ponder the facts to derive the most important lessons and examples in order to employ them in the future, particularly during this historical anniversary of the Ba'th Party's establishment.

The fateful confrontation has highlighted the life of the Arab nation and the course of the Arab and Islamic struggle. It has also highlighted the strong and weak points in our militant thinking and behavior. It has instituted a semblance of an objective historical tribunal to pass a fair, just, and daring judgment on all practices, roles, and forces in the world. This is especially the case regarding the Arab homeland and the degree of its sincerity, genuineness, and true expression of the human will in the world, the will of the Arab nation, and the ambitions of the young Arab generations who believe in the future of the nation in the Arab homeland. All of us in the Arab nation stand in the mihrab of history. We all are required to frankly tell the facts to the masses of our nation and to practice criticism and self-criticism. We are also required to expose the faults, deal with dangers, raise the pan-Arab struggle to a new level, and renew our pledge of loyalty to our nation and our determination to promote the pan-Arab state of affairs, despite all its sharp contradictions, to the level that embodies the spirit of resurrection in the nation and that is commensurate with the fateful challenges facing the pan-Arab struggle.

This struggling country—Iraq—has a right to demand the Arab strugglers to deeply ponder, as a genuine example for the nation, the principled stance it has recorded in the history of this pan-Arab phase by accepting the challenge vis-a-vis the forces that have utilized modern technology against all values. They should also ponder how Iraq has stood fast and persevered, how much harm and pain it has suffered, and how it managed, while riddled with wounds, to defeat one of the most outstanding chapters of the conspiracy against its territorial integrity and national unity.

All this would not have happened had the Iraqi people not imbibed the Ba'thist great principles and the July revolution's march. This is heroism in itself. Iraq is determined to rebuild itself and to resurge with the efforts of its citizens in the southern and northern parts of the homeland. In addition, it will require efforts from its sons in the central area, and with the efforts of the strugglers and all the youths, with the determination and

perseverance of the glorious women, with the blessings of aged, and with sweat. Is this not an example of genuine pan-Arab resurrection that Iraq embodies?

The Arab nation demands that we turn the showdown that took place on the land of Iraq, with all its chapters, into a starting point toward a new level of thinking, work, practice, and struggle. We should do this without fear of the challenges, however great they may be, because this nation remains stronger than its enemies as long as it arms itself with principles and continues to be faithful to its history, message, and humanitarian motives.

In light of these fateful confrontations and their historical labor pains, the real meanings of the existence of parties, of the role of leadership, of the extent of their compliance with the nation's spirit of resurrection, and of the nation's cultural resurrection, come to the surface.

Brave sons of Arabism: Pan-Arab events over the half century since the Ba'th Party was established have always proven the validity of what our great comrade, the late founder of the Ba'th Party, used to assert; namely, that the Ba'th is a renewing, living energy and a historical movement that can survive for hundreds of years; that it is the party of the message; and that a historical party with a message dictates that the struggle with its enemies and distorters be one of life or death.

Undoubtedly, this view about the Ba'th mission and the extent of challenge to pan-Arab resurgence stems from the nature of the relationship between the Ba'th and the heritage and between the Ba'th and the nation. The Ba'th Party's sincere and principled position, and its mental, ethical, and spiritual level were, in one way, a fruit of the nation's maturity. In another, the birth of the party in terms of time and place signified a kind of wager on the genuineness of this nation and this part of the Arab homeland, which was a pioneer in building a pan-Arab experience that managed to maintain a principled policy and genuine Ba'thist values.

By confronting the conspiracy against the national and pan-Arab destiny; by exposing and slandering the parties to this conspiracy, their allies, and their aides; and by deepening the wounds of these parties, Iraq has reflected the genuineness of this nation and proved that the historic wager on this genuineness was correct.

The 44th anniversary of the foundation of the Ba'th Party reaffirms that the party's ideology has dealt genuinely and renewably with the pan-Arab heritage and with contemporary ideology, and that the pan-Arab Ba'th organization constituted a rejection of division and assertion of the Arab nation's unity. The party proved that its concept of politics was not isolated from its mission of resurgence and from its deep and sincere principled policy in approaching things and struggling to achieve them. It is the party of the nation; the party of Arabism and Islam; the party of cultural renewal; the party of unity and unified struggle; the party of freedom and faith; the party of man and his rights to life,

aspiration, and recreation; the party of masses that are struggling to establish social justice on a socialist basis; and the party of spiritual resurgence, progress, and pan-Arab upsurge.

This is the true, genuine picture of the Ba'th Party, a picture that continued to resist attempts of distortion and to make pan-Arab struggle adopt principled positions and scientific, holistic approach to Arab issues on the basis of an integral relationship among the past, the present, and the future. The party reflected the unity of the nation's cultural identity and the human nature of pan-Arabism. It managed to embody its principled nature through a genuine, honest experience in Iraq. This experience has fully succeeded in creating a state of resurgence that promises comprehensive upsurge by the entire nation—an upsurge that makes enemies and agents sleepless. It is because the dawn of the Ba'th resurgence has lightened Iraq that the enemies of the nation designed their treacherous conspiracy.

Thanks to this principled policy, the Ba'th militant positions showed constant readiness for sacrifice, for responding to every genuine pan-Arab call, and for making sacrifices on the battlefield.

The Ba'th Party always has in mind its nation and adheres to the pan-Arab approach. For the Ba'th Party, the calculations of loss and profit retreat before principles, for principles must always be the winner and the crown of any of its actions, approaches, and policies regardless of sacrifices or the price. This is because principles constitute the impregnable fortress and the genuine standard of distinguishing between faith and lack of faith; between pan-Arab stands and nonpan-Arab stands, between conduct that is responsible before God, history, the homeland, and the nation, and the reckless and fluctuating conduct that sinks to the bottom of corruption, agency, and treason, and between comprehensiveness and the ravens' boldness.

With this principled spirit, Iraq led the battle of confrontation with the enemies of the nation. Iraq's major concern was to have the principles of faith and the national and pan-Arab principles emerge triumphant before anything else and despite anything. This has been achieved with God's help and through the steadfastness of its mujahid and genuine people, the heroism of its army, and the great pan-Arab stand of the Arab nation's masses in the greater Arab homeland's east and Maghreb. The most eloquent lesson we should learn from all this is that struggle must always be for the sake of pan-Arab principles and for the nation's progress on the road to achieving its humanitarian civilization plan despite all challenges. This is the big lesson that gives all militant forces in the Arab homeland in general and the struggler intellectuals in particular the task of making the young Arab generations understand this lesson deeply, and of turning this lesson into an approach in the individual and collective conduct and struggle. This is because embodying this lofty principled spirit is the

basic guarantee for success in confronting future challenges. The current fateful confrontation has clearly showed that the Arab masses and spirit still need to make greater strides for the sake of national and pan-Arab action.

O sons of our glorious nation, your nation is surrounded by the intentions of evil, hostility, and rancor. The only shield to protect it from the successive hostile and evil campaigns that seek to stifle our pan-Arab aspirations is the rallying around the principled pan-Arab stand that shelters everyone, achieves further militant solidarity, closes the doors of the stage of capitulation, fragmentation, and weakness, and bolsters national, pan-Arab, and spiritual unity among the sons of the one people and the one nation in the face of future challenges.

Pluralism in the national and pan-Arab life is an objective fact through which awareness becomes mature. It enriches national and pan-Arab unity as long as it is based on a responsible democratic practice because it unifies the sons of the one homeland and the one nation on the road of integration and the unity of struggle, and of achieving development and awakening in all the fields of political, social, and militant life. It is a national, pan-Arab, and cultural task that has become necessary. In addition it is an integrated part of the prerequisites of the pan-Arab battle to save national and pan-Arab action throughout the Arab homeland from the negative aspects of the previous stage. There should be no fear from expanding the horizons of dialogue, openness, and the responsible democratic practice as long as there is a fateful battle, a common objective, and clear common stands toward imperialism and Zionism.

This stage is one of a unitary and democratic action and a phase of a special and unique struggle. This was Iraq's conviction before the current confrontation. This is what Iraq has committed itself to, with utmost seriousness and confidence. We have a profound conviction that a courageous and conscientious practice of democracy is the correct way to unify the forces of Arab struggle and to elevate the national and pan-Arab struggle to the level required by the fateful cultural challenges.

O Ba'thist strugglers, O noble sons of Arabism, the anniversary of Ba'th's birth and the principled meaning of this birth will remain a source of inspiration for pan-Arab struggle and a great tributary for faith with the examples of sacrifice which this birth offers. This birth is an asset to the nation. Because it is linked to the Arabs' struggle in their various countries, there are no boundaries separating the Ba'thists' struggle from that of the nationalists, pan-Arabists, and democrats, and from the struggle of those who hold the slogans of Islam with deep faith, because their battle is the same one.

Our confidence in the future is profound and strong because the doors of the future are open to the believers. Their nation is one with a great message and it renews its capabilities and potential whenever it faces difficult

circumstances and complex phases. This nation's experience becomes mature as it moves ahead to confront the challenges of struggle. No force in the world can halt the Arabs' surge toward a dignified life. This life cannot materialize except under Arab unity, freedom, fair distribution of national and pan-Arab wealth, enhanced democracy, and respect for human rights.

A salute of exaltation for the Ba'th martyrs and for the anniversary of our comrade the greater founder, may God's mercy be upon him. Immortality be for the martyrs of the mother of battles who added to the national and pan-Arab record of honor a new chapter along with the al-Qadisiyah martyrs.

A salute of exaltation for the martyrs of the Arab nation. A salute of struggle for the mujahid people of Palestine and for all strugglers wherever they may be in the arenas of jihad and struggle. God is great.

Ba'th Party Issues Statement

NC0604165691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has declared that the party, and through it the Arab nation, symbolized by Iraq under the historic leadership of Comrade struggler Saddam Husayn have attained a moral and spiritual victory over the technologically advanced enemy of the Arab nation.

To mark the 44th anniversary of the founding of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the party issued a statement saying this moral victory will be ammunition for the Arab struggle and the toiling masses across the Arab homeland. Herewith the text of the statement:

Children of our Arab nation, Arab strugglers, genuine Ba'thists: The sun of the party's anniversary rises to bear witness to the pan-Arab achievement realized with the birth of the Ba'th party on 7 April 1947. The party's history is part of the history of the present-day Arab renaissance, and its militant march is inscribed in the conscience of the Arab nation. The interaction between the party and the nation goes to show the Arab nation's preparedness for constant cultural renewal and also underscores the true significance of the birth of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party was only the expression of a new Arab era and a humanitarian, cultural project that connects the past of the Arab nation with its present, meets an Arab and Islamic need for revival, and at the same time satisfies the yearning of repressed peoples for liberation, progress, economic and social reconstruction, and spiritual revival in line with the logic and spirit of the times.

The Ba'th Party's restorative march is now almost half a century old. Throughout its march, the party has been seeking to liberate the Arab nation from the colonialist forces. It has stood as a giant, struggling against the

forces that resist the movement of history and the cultural and human march. Although they have massed all these material and military forces and funds, the party has exposed these forces as being unable to stop the Arab nation's march, the miraculous Islamic awakening, and the people's struggle for freedom.

The current heroic confrontation, in the mother of battles, of the most dangerous conspiracy against the Arab nation is an expression of this fact. This confrontation, which crowned the Ba'th Party's struggle, will continue to be the road to be followed until the Arab nation will mass all its forces against the remnants of the old world so that out of its heroic struggle, suffering, and pains, a new world will be born: A genuine world for man and mankind and for the peoples and nations revolting against the law of the jungle. This new world will be the culmination of Western civilization.

The party is the big banner for a new stage in the life of the contemporary world, its international relations, values, practices in its societies, its standards of judgment of the good and evil, and its concepts of freedom, man, and civilization. The confrontation, in which the Ba'th Party was predestined to be the nation's vanguard, is the banner of the historic battle that harbors the good news of a near historic victory in which the factors of the spiritual and material success will triumph over all the forces of evil in the contemporary world.

The Ba'th Party, embodied by Iraq and the leadership of struggler comrade Saddam Husayn, and through it the Arab nation, has achieved moral and spiritual supremacy over the technological and media supremacy that those hostile nations gathered against us possess. This moral victory will continue to be a support for Arab struggle, the young Arab generations, and the toiling and struggling masses throughout the Arab homeland. Arab history and that of world peoples will also record this victory for hundreds of years to come as a great example of the Arab nation's vitality, self-confidence, belief in its eternal message, and its historical readiness to play a leading role to save the world from the imperialist tyranny, Zionist plotting, and cultural decline.

O valiant sons of the Arab nation, the founding of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as has been proven throughout its long history of struggle and through the current circumstances surrounding the 44th anniversary, had its objective historical justifications. This is why its growth is organically linked to the nation's struggle and exposed with it to the tests of the natural stages of every sound and healthy growth. The Ba'th Party has overcome the difficult stages because it possessed the ability to tame difficulties. As its founder, the late Michel 'Aflaq, said: The Ba'th Party has possessed the vital connection with the spirit of Arabism and Islam. This is why the young party became strong enough to overcome the early conspiracies—the conspiracies distorting its pan-Arab and humanitarian identity, deviating it from its historical march, disrupting its militant role, and destroying it.

The Ba'th Party survived and triumphed in the battle of existence, identity, and place in history. In the nation's life it filled an ideological vacuum which no other party could fill. It forged a distinguished political and militant course. It established a pan-Arab and organizational structure embodying a true single nation. It adopted the struggling Arab masses as an historic tool to achieve unity, freedom, and socialism.

The Ba'th Party played a role in achieving the unity of struggle in the fifties and in creating unity and cohesion between the struggle for independence in the Arab Orient, the 'Abd-al-Nasir revolution in Egypt, the Algerian revolution, and the struggle for independence in the Arab Maghreb. This unity in struggle led to the union between Syria and Egypt in 1958 and to the 14 July revolution in Iraq. The liberation and unity tide which crowned the fifties with great achievements was greatly influenced by Ba'th Party ideas. These ideas influenced the answer to the secession, the deviations, and the setbacks in the sixties. They also influenced the attempts to resurrect the struggle for unity, to rescue revolutionary work from the fever of improvisations, one-upmanship, and coups, and to create corrective trends and genuine experiments deeply attached to the people's struggling masses, such as the 14 Ramadan or the 8 March 1963 revolution and the 17-30 July 1968 revolution.

The Ba'th Party then built a mature experiment based on active linkage between theoretical principles and strategic concepts. It brought about great achievements, such as the nationalization of the oil industry and the establishment of autonomy in northern Iraq. It made great strides on the path of development, consolidating national unity, and developing militant action and democratic exercise. It embarked on pan-Arab action to resist the plans for a subservient settlement, strengthen the ties of struggle with the Palestinian resistance, and expand the activity of the pan-Arab organizations inside and outside the Arab homeland.

The Ba'th Party built a liberated pan-Arab base in Iraq on the principles of scientific thinking and revolutionary planning. It realized achievements, the positive effects of which encompassed the Arab homeland and even Third World countries. The Ba'th Party realized that these achievements would be subject to aggressive confrontations and serious plots which became clear in the eighties. It accepted the challenge and faced a war which lasted eight years, in which it triumphed and during which it advanced greatly on the road to industrialization, especially military industrialization. The postwar period then witnessed new dimensions of a comprehensive renaissance in Iraq and of a pan-Arab phase which adopted a new spirit based on the bright Ba'thist experiment. This new spirit became evident when the trends for unity and developing democratic exercise were fused. It was also evident when technological and cultural processes became balanced.

In the wake of the Iran-Iraq war, the Ba'th Party expected a new aggressive onslaught, one more ferocious, greater in size, and of a higher degree. This onslaught was transformed into a comprehensive plot against the nation's renaissance movement. The plot targeted Iraq to achieve its imperialist-Zionist and reactionary objectives. It marshalled its forces and concentrated on the Ba'th Party experiment, which is based on the two pillars of the contemporary Arab renaissance—Arabism and Islam. The plot targeted the spirit of this renaissance represented by Arabism and Islam.

No one believed that this wall of steel called Iraq could alone face the forces of 30 states which the plot had gathered. These states were led by the United States, Britain, and France, and were assisted by world Zionism and its influence in the Western societies. No one believed that Iraq would transform its steadfastness into a historic base for resurrecting national and pan-Arab consciousness, for carrying on the struggle for unity, for establishing genuine democracy, for justly exploiting the nation's resources, and for building a society based on unity and on organic relationship between freedom and social justice.

Hence the Ba'th founding anniversary, which is renewed on 7 April 1991, is linked with the attainment of this standard which embodies the image of the future and at the same time expresses the essence of the Ba'th message, the significance of its existence, and the nature of its role in Arab and contemporary life in a more profound way than was done in the former stages of its long struggle.

The Arab masses from the ocean to the Gulf, who were drawn to the epic of Iraq's steadfastness, could clearly sense the reality of the Ba'thist faith and principled stand. They also highly appreciated Saddam Husayn's historic leadership when he raised the banner of defiance against imperialist interests and Zionist schemes and their great conspiracy against Arab destiny. They appreciated it when he expressed—with force, honor, dignity, and truth—the Arab right, pan-Arab pride, and the Arab nation's readiness for and absolute confidence in the future.

Although it understood the magnitude of the challenge, the Ba'th's principled stand realized the nature of the fateful conspiracy against the Arab future, and thus it did not abandon its national and pan-Arab principles. It did this because it represented the nation's will and its renaissance spirit. Iraq and its historic leadership properly assessed the seriousness of the conspiracy against Arab destiny and understood that the balance of the tyrannical materialist forces would put the Arab destiny's moral forces to a hard test. It realized, however, that the nation and its vanguard strugglers were required to adopt a principled, historic, and future-oriented stance that would safeguard their moral strength, forestall feebleness and surrender, stimulate their forces, and provide the historic response to the fateful challenge and to the contradiction between the nation's current state of decline and the fact of its human civilization.

O sons of the glorious Arab nation, the Ba'th's historic wager and its pan-Arab progressive scheme have always been an expression of Arab nobility and a spiritual wealth drawn from the spirit of Islam. The Ba'th's experience in struggle has provided proof of the Arab nation's ability to turn the problems of struggle into positive and strong motives for progress and renewal. This is true because the Ba'th was born out of Arabdom's sufferings and the inspiration of Islam. Its historic birth from within the nation and the age's hardships constituted an elevation of the level of confrontation with internal and external challenges to a culturally advanced stage that achieved unity between the nation's ambition and the progress of humanity and between purity of origin and the contemporary world. The nation's sufferings became a path to its hopes. The Ba'th became a living symbol embodying the nation's suffering and expressing this suffering in an intellectual and struggle-oriented way that seeks to restore balance and harmony between the facts and the nation's character and to eliminate the flaws of the Arab structure. The anomalies in this Arab structure had become so pronounced that the perverted acts of some regimes, factions, and individuals came to represent the foreigner's interests to such a degree that it was difficult for the Arab mind and conscience to accept that they had any connection with Arabdom.

At the same time there was a flaw in the progress of Western civilization that allowed the entire world to fall into the hands of imperialist hegemony, brutal exploitation, injustice, and despotic control of the destinies of peoples and nations.

The Ba'thist struggle—which has been able to instill in the lives of Arab generations the seed of historic steadfastness and enthusiasm to build the basis of a new standard of renaissance in contemporary Arab life—was eager, on the other hand, to provide an example to the Third World in confronting the imperialist-Zionist challenge and their plots against the fate of emerging nations and peoples due to their oppression, plunder, and disregard for all human values.

The Ba'th Party's endurance of the pains of the historic birth and the inherent wounds of division and the bleeding of the Palestinian wound was not just an expression of spiritual and moral strength. It was, in fact, a message to the world and an appeal to all its peoples based on an ideological and rational conviction of its understanding of the era of pan-Arab renaissance and the development of world history.

Therefore, the Ba'th Party's march has been characterized by historic foresight which enabled it to anticipate the developments in the socialist experience that took place in the world. Through the current confrontation with the remnants of the old colonialist system mentality, the American imperialist system, and the Zionist entity, the Ba'th Party is confident that the deterioration of Western civilization and its capitalist societies are an objective reality. This is a reality which neither the

information media nor the technological progress employed to distort the human cultural values can conceal from the growing awareness of the peoples of the world.

The Ba'th Party was not just the bearer of the revolutionary pains and dreams, thereby enjoying an extraordinary spiritual capability for endurance and patience. By its superior capability to stand fast, build, and defend the Arab right, it was also a cultural entity with a complete personality and a living symbol of heroism. The comprehensive nature of the Arab national struggle has been able to achieve the required standard for playing a growing historic role through which the Ba'th Party was able to successfully overcome the adversities and difficulties in its struggle experience. In this way the party confirmed its reality and genuine existence which expresses the spirit of the struggling nation as it makes its way toward the achievement of its goals amid the thorns of the conspiracy and successive fateful challenges, maintaining its moral superiority and its absolute confidence in the future.

Arab strugglers: The uniqueness of the 44th anniversary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party poses to pan-Arab thought the challenge of measuring up to the mounting struggle of the Arab nation as it faces the enemies of its liberation, unity, and renaissance.

Therefore, the lessons of this fateful confrontation have become the stuff of which pan-Arab awareness and action are to be built. They will be built on more developed and mature bases to settle the historic duel in favor of the Arab and global forces of the future.

One of the positive lessons of this fateful confrontation is that it has redrawn and redefined the lines in our daily lives and closed the ranks of national, pan-Arab, and progressive forces and trends. This all was done prior to entering a new, more mature phase which entails developing unionist action and the democratic process on firm foundations by responding to the needs of the masses and the struggle as well as the challenges of the future.

Children of our glorious Arab nation: Since its inception, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has differentiated between reacting to events and taking positive action.

What the Arab nation is experiencing in the aftermath of the first historic and decisive confrontation in its contemporary history provides food for responsible thought and reflection. All the facts must be made available to the Arab masses to be a guide for its march to the immediate and distant future, and so that the nationalist and militant forces may be well-prepared for the historic moment.

March forward O masses of our immortal Arab nation.

People of the intifadah, students of Egypt, and children of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, along with the people of Jordan, Iraq, and other

Arabs: March forward so that we may build a victorious new phase. Immortality to the martyrs of our Arab nation.

UN Delegate Details Iranian Violations

NC0604202291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 6 Apr (INA)—Iraq's representative at the United Nations has addressed three messages to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar dealing with the Iranian violations against our country.

The INA correspondent in New York has reported that the first message was sent on 22 March 1991, and the second and third messages were sent on 3 and 4 April.

The first message explained that the Iranian excesses—which seriously violate the cease-fire and withdrawal agreement supervised by the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG]—began at the beginning of March 1991 with reconnaissance missions along the border and opening fire in the direction of Iraqi territory.

The message noted that these excesses escalated until they included incursions into the buffer zone, infiltrating in large numbers, building posts inside Iraqi territory, harassing Iraqi Army units, and violating Iraqi air space with helicopters.

The message said that at 2210 on 6 March an Iranian force of 100 troops infiltrated Iraqi territory and clashed with Iraqi units in the Zurbatiyah area in the central sector. Also on 6 March 1991 six Iranian coaster [preceding word in English] vehicles carrying 100 troops crossed the international border into the Iraqi city of Khanaqin through Khosravi "al-Munthiriyah." This force crossed the buffer zone, the cease-fire line, and the international border and opened fire on Iraqi units.

At 1950 on 7 March 1991 the Iranian forces opened fire several times on our army units across the international border in Zurbatiyah in the central sector.

At 0540 on 9 March the Iranian forces opened fire on our units from two directions in the Shaykh Sa'd area.

The letter said that 14 soldiers at 1600 on 9 March 1991 were spotted building an emplacement in the buffer zone in Zurbatiyah in the central sector.

On 12 March 1991 [indistinct word] people crossed in large numbers from Iranian territory through the Husayn Abad opening and the al-Mundhiriyah in the central sector.

At 2100 on 12 March 1991 a group from Iranian territory infiltrated our front positions in Zurbatiyah and opened fire with launchers and light weapons.

At [word indistinct] on 12 March 1991 approximately 150 infiltrators came from Iranian territory and attacked

our front positions in the central sector. They were assisted by Iranian helicopters that hovered over Iraqi units.

At [word indistinct] on 12 March 1991 a group infiltrated from inside Iranian territory and attacked our forces' Hadrirah position in the central sector and then withdrew to Iranian territory.

At 1500 on 12 March 1991 elements infiltrated from inside Iran and sealed off the road between al-Simah police station and our positions in Zurbatiyah. At 1920 on 12 March 1991 a group infiltrated from Iran and attacked our front units with light weapons and hand grenades in Zurbatiyah area.

On 17 March 1991 the central sector was attacked from inside Iranian territory. The Iranian side provided the armed units that launched the attacks with help, weapons, and guidance consisting of helicopters and observation posts.

The INA correspondent said Iraq's representative asked that the letter be circulated as an official document of the UN Security Council.

The second letter Iraq's permanent representative to the UN sent to the UN secretary general on 3 April says that 50 Iranian prisoners who took part in the March riots were captured inside Iraqi territory. The letter explains that these prisoners are currently being detained by the Iraqi authorities.

The letter notes that elements from the Badr Division, comprised entirely of Iraqi prisoners detained by Iran, and the Iranian elements who fled Iraq and were received by the Iranian Government have basically taken part in the riots. The letter adds that the Iranian Government has supervised the training of these elements and encouraged them to enter Iraqi territory. An identification card was found on a dead 9th Badr Division volunteer. The card read: Mujahedin Iraqi. The letter notes that the Iranian prisoners stressed that they participated in the riots under the direction of the Iranian Government and that the Iranian authorities provided them with Iranian forces' vehicles to transport the rioters into Iraqi territory. The vehicles were also used to transport foodstuffs to the areas of al-Tannumah in al-Basrah and al-'Amarah and some schools [word indistinct].

The letter adds that the Iranian authorities have treated the wounded rioters and evacuated the dead from the areas of Shalamchah and al-Tannumah in al-Basrah to a hospital in 'Abadan. It also says that Guard Forces personnel were entrusted with taking the abandoned vehicles, weapons, and ammunition to Iranian territories. The Iranian authorities also formed a unit for aiding the Iraqi people in Khorramshahr. The unit is affiliated with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, which works under the supervision of the Iranian Armed Forces, to

provide food aid as well as providing information to the rioters to enable reconnaissance groups to infiltrate deep into Iraqi territory.

The second letter said that on 1 April 1991 five Iranians were arrested in the Khalifah Murad area eight to 10 km inside Iraqi territory in the Khanaqin-Klar sector. They belonged to Division 22, Ansar al-Husayn Guards. They are being detained in Iraq. The body of an Iranian named Hasan Bakhtiari was also discovered on (Muru-ryad) mountain, 10 to 12 km inside Iraqi territory in the Khanaqin sector. His identity shows that he is a member of the Bakhtaran guard.

The letter points out that this information, supported by documents and unequivocal evidence in the possession of the Iraqi authorities, proves that the Iranian Government has flagrantly violated the terms of the cease-fire and withdrawal agreed upon by the two countries under UN auspices. The letter notes that at the appropriate time the Iraqi Government will reveal other documented information that proves without any shadow of a doubt the Iranian Government's direct involvement in the preparations and fanning of the disturbances. This is contrary to its commitments in the wake of the Iraqi initiatives to solve the conflict between the two countries according to UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 and under UN auspices. Iraq holds the Iranian Government fully responsible for the disturbances and the destruction resulting from its direct and effective involvement in them.

The INA correspondent said that Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations has asked that this letter be circulated as a Security Council document.

The third letter sent by Iraq's UN delegate on 4 April explains that 991 elements from the Khomeyni's Guard 10th, 14th, 27th, and 41st Divisions from the 91st Brigade and from the 9th Badr Division took part in the rioting in March. These elements used Iranian vehicles to transport rioting elements from inside Iranian territory to Iraqi territory. They also moved dead and wounded and abandoned fighting equipment to Iran, and they transported ammunition to Iraq.

The letter also explains that the Iraqi authorities have detained 50 Iranian prisoners. A reference to these prisoners was made in the letter sent on 3 April.

The third letter says that Kurdish saboteurs detained between 2,000 and 3,000 Iraqi military personnel, some of them officers stationed in Darbandikhan, transported them to Qurehtu, and handed them over to the group of Muhammad Bakr al-Hakim operating inside Iranian territory on 19 March 1991. The letter says that rioters detained 27 Iraqi officers and handed them over to the Iranian authorities. Rioters also moved five Iraqi helicopters from east al-Basrah to inside Iran on tank transporters.

The letter says this information, which is added to the information we presented in our letter on 3 April 1991

and which is based on absolute evidence and documents held by the Iraqi authorities, proves that the Iranian Government has blatantly violated the cease-fire and withdrawal regulations that the two countries agreed upon under UN auspices. At the suitable time the Iraqi Government will submit other documented evidence proving the involvement of the Iranian Government in preparing for, inciting, and directly participating in the acts of rioting contrary to its commitment to Iraq's peace initiative to solve the dispute between the two countries in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 and under UN auspices.

The Iraqi Government also reaffirms that it holds the Iranian Government fully responsible for the rioting and destruction that took place after it directly and effectively participated in them. The Iraqi permanent delegate asked that the letter be circulated as an official Security Council document.

Further Violations Cited

NC0804072591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT
8 Apr 91

[Text] New York, United Nations, 8 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations yesterday sent a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar detailing further Iranian violations of Iraqi territory.

The memorandum, which was submitted at the instructions of the Iraqi Government, said that an Iranian helicopter of the type 232 landed on Iraqi territory in the al-Tib area of the southern sector at 0900 on Thursday, 4 April. The helicopter later took off in the direction of Iranian territory.

The memorandum stresses that this incident, which is in addition to the earlier Iranian violations referred to in our letters, the most recent of which was our letter of 4 April, confirms the Iranian Government's insistence on violating the terms of the cease-fire between the two countries and its clear intentions of undermining Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Iraq's representative also requested that this memorandum be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations yesterday also sent a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar regarding new evidence of serious Iranian violations of the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran and Iran's blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs. The Iraqi representative said in his memorandum, which he submitted at the instructions of the Iraqi Government, that Iraq has evidence that the Iranian regime is providing facilities to the so-called Iraqi opposition movement and facilitating the dispatch of aid and forces to Iraq.

The following is the text of the memorandum:

Your Excellency: At the instructions of my government, I have the honor to present to you new evidence of Iran's serious violations of the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran and its blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs as follows:

1. Iraq has documents in its possession indicating that the Iranian regime has provided facilities to the so-called Iraqi opposition movement and facilitated the entry of aid and forces to Iraq.

2. Documents confirming the participation of members of the Khomeyni guard in an attack on our forces in Diyala Governorate were found on the bodies of some Iranians who were killed in the attack. The (?codebook) of one of the commanders of the Khomeyni guard was also found.

3. Fifty-six members of the 32d Ansar al-Husayn Division were captured after having infiltrated into Diyala Governorate.

4. After repulsing the infiltrators who entered Diyala Governorate from Iran, canned food, canteens, and (?communications equipment) manufactured by the Iranian guard ministry were discovered. RPG-7 launchers and communications equipment manufactured by the Iranian guard ministry were also seized following another attack on our forces in Diyala Governorate.

5. The competent Iraqi authorities have evidence that the (?force) which captured Iraq's al-Mundhiriyyah border post at the beginning of March 1991 was Iranian.

6. Iraq has evidence that an armed group from the 9th Badr Division crossed into Iraq on 3 March 1991 and traveled to al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah to stage demonstrations and instigate riots in these cities.

7. The competent Iraqi authorities have information on the formation of committees consisting of representatives of the Iranian [word indistinct], the al-Da'wah Party, and the so-called Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. These committees have been tasked with recruiting Iraqi defectors and refugees, supplying them with military uniforms and identity cards, and sending them to Iraq through [word indistinct] al-Basrah.

8. On 6 March 1991, an Iranian armed group (?entered) the Hayy al-Shurtah area in Khanaqin Governorate and clashed with Iraqi security forces. Two of the Iranians were killed and identity cards proving they were members of the Khomeyni guard were found on their bodies.

9. One of the infiltrators has confessed that Iranian officials had asked him to travel to the al-Tannumah area in al-Basrah in a convoy consisting of two trucks, one carrying weapons and the other ammunition, and five other vehicles to transport 300 armed men from the so-called Repetents [al-Tawwabin] to al-Tannumah.

10. Another infiltrator who was captured during the riots has confessed that he was asked by his guard commanders to escort armed elements from Iran to the al-Tannumah district in al-Basrah Governorate. He was also asked to escort other armed elements from Iran to the Maysan Governorate via the al-Halfayah road.

11. The competent Iraqi authorities are in possession of information about Iran's intention to occupy the city of al-Kut and to cut the Baghdad-al-Kut-al-Basrah road by sending elements from the 9th Mechanized Badr Division and the 11th Amir al-Mu'minin Division.

12. Information has become available about the participation of three regiments from the al-Nabiy al-Akram Division in the Mehran-al-Kut operations.

13. Information has become available about an agreement between Iran and the saboteurs in northern Iraq to open all roads to Iran in the event of the saboteurs' withdrawal.

14. Information has become available that a leader of the Khomeyni guard named Morteza Qorbani led the riots in al-Kut and Badrah.

This evidence and these documents are in the possession of the competent Iraqi authorities, who are ready to submit them to the parties selected by the secretary general in order to prove Iran's blatant intervention in Iraq's internal affairs and its violation of the cease-fire agreement between the two countries and of the principles of good neighborliness.

On this occasion, we appeal to the people of the world and international organizations to intervene to stop these Iranian practices and spare the Iraqi people and other peoples in the area further suffering.

Please accept my deepest respect.

[Signed] The permanent representative

UN Representative Protests U.S. Overflights

2-3 Apr

NC0604185591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 6 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations has submitted a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the continuing violation of Iraqi air space by U.S. aircraft.

The INA correspondent says that the Iraqi representative asked that the memorandum be deposited as a UN Security Council document. The memorandum says that the U.S.-Saudi air activity on 2-3 April reached 82 sorties in 41 formations over Baghdad and surrounding areas.

The memorandum explains that the aircraft were F-14's and F-15's that flew at an average altitude of four km and

at a speed of 720 km per hour. They carried out provocations and reconnaissance missions at low altitude while flying over Baghdad.

5-6 Apr

NC0704201791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT
7 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 7 Apr (INA)—Iraq's UN representative today submitted a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar regarding the continuing violation of Iraqi airspace by U.S. aircraft.

The memorandum says that U.S.-Saudi air activity on 5-6 April totaled 47 sorties in 21 formations. It adds these aircraft flew over Baghdad, south of al-Kut, north of al-Nasiriyah, north of al-'Aziziyah, and over Karbala' and al-Rutbah to provoke and harass.

The memorandum notes that the aircraft, identified as F-14's and F-15's, flew at an altitude of between 1 and 6 km and at a speed of 750 km per hour.

The Iraqi representative asked that this memorandum be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

6-7 Apr

NC0804050991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2122 GMT
7 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 7 Apr (INA)—Iraq's representative to the United Nations has submitted another memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar regarding hostile U.S. air activity.

The memorandum says that U.S. air activity on 6-7 April totaled 76 sorties in 38 formations. It notes that the flights took place over Baghdad, al-Hillah, al-Najaf, al-Kut, al-Daywaniyah, and west and south of Baghdad and were intended to provoke and harass.

The aircraft, identified as F-41's and F-15's, flew at an altitude of between one and six km and at a speed of 750 km per hour.

The Iraqi representative asked that this memorandum be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

Ramadan Reportedly Hospitalized, 'In Danger'

PM0804095391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 2 Apr 91 p 1

[Unattributed report from "It Has Been Said" column]

[Text] It has been said that Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has been admitted to a private hospital in Baghdad following a "sudden" injury, and that officials said that Ramadan's life was "in danger."

U.S. Relief to Kurds 'Deserves Denunciation'

NC0704192391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT
7 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA)—Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and vice president [title as received], has stated that the Americans' dropping of what they call relief aid from the air over northern Iraq deserves denunciation and ridicule.

In a statement to INA today, Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf added that the Kurdish citizens have not been in need of blankets and food supplies; they have been secure in their towns and homes and farms. What happened was that the Americans and their allies encouraged the wandering subversive elements outside Iraq to enter Iraqi territory from Turkey and Iran to agitate the civilian Kurdish population and commit crimes of looting and plundering. He emphasized that the Kurds in Iraq enjoy a much higher standard of living than the Kurds living in Iran and Turkey. In addition, they enjoy their ethnic rights in Iraq.

Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf said that after failing in their plans, the subversive elements forced the Kurdish citizens to go to the Iranian and Turkish borders by use of pressure, intimidation, and threat of arms. He said that the United States, France, Britain, Turkey, and Iran are exploiting the suffering of the Kurdish citizens for political propaganda as if they cared about human rights. The facts, however, indicate that Iran and Turkey in particular should be the last to talk about human rights or the rights of the Kurds. As for the three major powers, they are using the Kurdish card as part of their plot against the people of Iraq, including the Kurds themselves.

Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf called on America and its allies to refrain from toying with the fate of the Iraqi Kurdish citizens now that they have begun to return to their towns and villages in Iraq from the Iranian and Turkish borders in response to the RCC's general amnesty decision.

He emphasized that the gangs, which America and its allies encouraged to loot and plunder and commit ugly crimes in northern Iraq, have failed. He affirmed that if the Americans and their allies really seek the welfare of the Kurds, they should leave them alone to return to their towns and villages and not to urge them to remain refugees on the borders. America and its allies should withdraw their support for the subversive elements that have recently been the basic cause of the Kurds' sufferings and for sowing instability in the area, he said.

Rebel Radio Reports 'Severe Attack' Near Al-Basrah

LD0604180291 Tehran Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Popular forces in the al-Tannumah region, south of al-Basrah, have launched a severe attack on the Iraqi regime's forces. The Voice of Rebellious Iraq radio

announced this fact today and described the attack as a new phase of resistance to the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, adding: Yesterday morning, popular forces attacked elements of the Iraqi regime surrounding al-Tannumah region, from the three axes of al-Basrah University, west of (Fishlake), and around the Shatt al-Arab, as a result of which over 30 of the Ba'thist forces were killed and a large quantity of military equipment and ammunition fell into the hands of the popular forces in good condition. The Voice of Rebellious Iraq report also states: The town of al-Basrah came under severe shelling by Iraqi Ba'thists yesterday, as a result of which dozens of civilians, including women and children, were killed or injured. Meanwhile, popular revolution committees in the town of al-'Amarah issued a statement calling on Iraqi soldiers to join the ranks of the popular forces. The Voice of Rebellious Iraq added in its report that since the statement was issued on Wednesday [3 Apr], 500 soldiers from the 6th Corps have joined the revolutionaries.

Regime Forces Continuing Shelling

NC0604195891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic 1918 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Amid the wide-scale jihad operations by the popular resistance groups in al-Basrah city and surrounding areas, the cowardly regime has continued to shell the heart of al-Basrah city for the second consecutive day. Dozens of violent explosions rocked the city today beginning at 1820 at the rate of one explosion every minute.

Yesterday steadfast al-Basrah experienced 14 violent explosions beginning at 1530 at the rate of one explosion every minute. These explosions affected residential areas, markets, and shops during the past two days.

700,000 Kurds Approach Iranian Border

LD0604113391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Following the extensive massacre of the Iraqi people by the Ba'thist regime of that country, the migration of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees toward the borders of our country is on the increase. According to the Central News Unit from Sanandaj, over 700,000 Iraqi Kurds are on the move on a 100 km stretch of road from Banjwin to the border in Basht-e Shur. They are either on foot or in 5,000 vehicles.

According to this report, the governor of Marivan announced: During the past two days, 2,000 old, sick and injured Iraqi refugees, who needed medical treatment, were transferred to our town. Help is continuing to the needy refugees by the good people, different organizations and offices of the Marivan township. The report also indicates that the Iraqi refugees urgently need tents, supplies, foodstuffs—including conserves, dried milk and dates—heating equipment, shoes, and clothes.

The supervisor of the Red Crescent Society of Marivan township, during an interview with the Sanandaj Central

News Unit correspondent, said: Unfortunately, 75 of the immigrant women, children, sick, and elderly have already lost their lives due to hunger and lack of medicine in the Shalar area of Iraq. During the past two days, the contents of over 30 lorries containing general supplies were distributed among the Iraqi Kurdish refugees in the Saveji District of Marivan.

500 'Massacred' in Kurdistan in 'Surprise Attack'

*LD0604122291 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT
6 Apr 91*

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., April 6, IRNA—Members of the outlawed Mujahidin Khalq Organization (MKO) massacred more than 500 women and children in Chamchamal, a city in Iraq's Kurdistan, in a surprise attack recently. Iraqi refugees who have arrived in Iran through Marivan border in this western province added that the city's residents at first took the MKO members for the Iraqi opposition forces and, therefore, did not drive them away.

According to the refugees the MKO members raped a large number of girls and women and poked their eyes and beheaded many of them. In a retaliatory move, the Iraqi Kurdish opposition later killed a large number of MKO members, said the refugees.

Opposition Reports Successful 5 Apr Operations

*NC0504211391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic 1926 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Text] Among the continuing heroic operations carried out by our heroic revolutionary groups and the start of a new stage in the well-planned military confrontation between our victorious revolutionary groups and the remnants of the desperate mercenaries of the men of Saddam, the first battle of martyr [Muhammad Baqir] al-Sadr began at an early hour this morning, Friday, against positions of the Republican Guards. The operation was designed to break the siege imposed on al-Tannumah, which lies in the southern suburb of the rebellious city of al-Basrah.

The offensive was carried out by our struggling revolutionary groups at three positions. Our reporter has the details:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The revolutionaries advanced toward their target at the first position where the clash occurred. A decisive battle took place around the al-Basrah University vicinity in al-Tannumah. The defeated men of Saddam resisted for only half an hour before fleeing, leaving behind them a large amount of hardware, weapons, and ordnance that was seized by our revolutionaries.

[Word indistinct] second position north of al-Tannumah and south of the Buhayrat al-Asmak area, where one of our revolutionary groups swooped on the positions of the defeated enemy, and in a lightning move, the enemy positions were destroyed. Flames were seen rising up

[words indistinct]; our revolutionaries saw a number of terrified men fleeing to the other part of the city. The battle lasted for 20 minutes, after which our revolutionaries returned to their bases [words indistinct] Shatt al-'Arab, where our revolutionary groups destroyed an important position of the enemy in a lightning attack. [Words indistinct] the attackers destroyed all the weapons at that position.

A responsible source at the popular committees told our radio that all three operations were successfully carried out at a zero hour, which was at (?0400) today. [Words indistinct] will be adopted by the popular committees to carry out the biggest resistance operation of martyrdom against the defeated positions of the Saddamist enemy, and there will be an opportunity for the thousands of revolutionaries and fighters [words indistinct]. The heroic city of al-Basrah was shaken when 14 heavy shells fired by the regime artillery fell on its residential areas from 1530 this afternoon [words indistinct], one minute separating every two shells [words indistinct]. The last three shells [words indistinct] women and children, who were either injured or killed.

Opposition Leader Says Rebels Will Attack Again

*OW0804003091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT
7 Apr 91*

[Text] Tehran, April 7 KYODO—Iraqi opposition leader Muhammad Bakr al-Hakim said Saturday that the withdrawal of rebels from major Iraqi cities was part of a planned strategy and the antigovernment forces would regroup and attack again. The Tehran-based cleric said by staying in the cities rebels risked endangering civilians, who would be killed in large numbers by rocket fire and chemical weapons employed by the troops of Iraqi president Saddam Husayn.

While calling on the Iraqis to rise up, Hakim, head of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the revolt against Husayn is not a response to U.S. calls. He alleged the U.S. Government was obstructing the establishment of a people's government in Iraq. Hakim said the current strategy of the antigovernment forces is to withdraw from the cities, regroup, and attack again.

He explained that rebel troops were forced out of the cities because rockets and chemical weapons used by pro-Husayn forces threatened to kill large numbers of Iraqi citizens. The Shiite leader said Husayn's statements on the suppression of the revolt were "another lie" by the Iraqi president "to deceive international society."

However, Hakim added that the regime cannot quell the revolt of the Iraqi people. Although there are a number of antigovernment groups in Iraq, such as the Shiites, the Kurds, and Sunni Moslems, Hakim said his group does not seek the division of Iraq, but a new government to rule over the entire land.

Ninety-seven percent of the people in Iraq are adherents of Islam, so it should be a nation that respects Islam, Hakim said, adding that his group has compromised with the Kurds in this regard. Hakim also denied that the rebel forces are receiving any military aid from Iran, saying "we are receiving only humanitarian aid."

Washington's Position Outrages Kurdish Official

AU0604190491 Vienna DER STANDARD in German
6 Apr 91

[Livia Klingl report on interview with Ali Sindjari, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Kurdistan in the Syrian border town of Parmishli on 5 April: "Oil More Important Than People"]

[Text] Vienna/Damascus—"We know that the Iraqis force women and children into helicopters and then push them out," the secretary general of the Democratic Union of Kurdistan, Ali Sindjari, told DER STANDARD. The Democratic Union is integrated into the Kurdistan Front. On Friday [5 April], Sindjari was in the Syrian border town of Parmishli.

Hundreds of thousands of people no longer have any food and own nothing but the clothes they are wearing. The refugees are pursued by the Republican Guards, who are loyal to Saddam. The major cities on Kurdish

territory in Iraq have been bombed and abandoned. In al-Sulaymaniyah the civilian population was massacred. "The situation reminds one of the holocaust of the Armenians."

Sindjari is particularly outraged by Washington's position. "Recently, George Bush appealed to the military to overthrow Saddam Husayn. He is not interested in democracy in Iraq." This is a "reconfirmation of the fact that U.S. policy only pursues special interests. Oil is more important than people. As long as the oil wells are under safe control, democracy is irrelevant." Saddam proved that he "won the mother of all battles. Yet, he won it against the mothers of poor children, because it has been a battle against the civilian population."

Sindjari noted that the Kurds are hoping for international media support as well as international intervention. Only a political solution can bring peace, he said. The UN Security Council must act in accordance with the French proposal. Sindjari described Paris' proposition as a democratic and humanitarian attitude toward the abandoned Kurdish civilian population. The Kurdish leader also welcomed Austria's initiative.

He appealed to the people in the Western democracies to protest against the massacre of the Kurds and to exert pressure on their own governments. "There must be no genocide in front of video cameras."

Agreement Said Reached on Regional Conference

Terms of Participation Set

TA0804104091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning held final consultations with Foreign Minister Levi and Defense Minister Arens in preparation for the visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The secretary of state is due to arrive this evening for a two-day visit. Jack Katzenell has more:

Secretary of State Baker will spend the evening at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem holding consultations with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown, and his aides. Tomorrow Baker will meet Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Levi, and Defense Minister Arens. The three Israeli leaders completed their preparations for the talks this morning. They decided to agree in principle to a regional conference on the Middle East, provided the United States guarantees unequivocally that the conference plenum will convene only for an opening ceremony and will then break up into bilateral meetings, and that the Arab countries will not be able to refer any dispute back to the plenum.

An American source told me this morning the United States accepts in general that agreements must be worked out by the participants on a bilateral basis and cannot be imposed by the conference, but how that principle is to be implemented remains to be seen.

Israel will also agree to reaffirm UN Resolutions 242 and 338, but only in the context of the Camp David agreements. Israel will not agree in these meetings with Secretary Baker to the formula of territory for peace.

On the composition of the Palestinian delegation, the United States will not apparently propose that Israel agree to participation by Palestinian deportees, but the question of whether Faysal al-Husayni can participate could prove a bone of contention. [passage omitted]

Shamir Wants Memorandum With U.S.

TA0704080591 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
7 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Drora Perl in the United States and political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir wishes to sign a memorandum of understanding with the United States about the political process as a precondition to his agreement to attend a regional conference, which will be summoned by the United States and the USSR, based on UN Security Council Resolution 242. This was reported last night by political sources in Jerusalem.

Shamir will announce Israel's conditioned agreement to take part in the regional forum during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Jerusalem this week. Baker,

who notified Shamir of his expected visit here on the holiday eve, will arrive in Israel tomorrow evening; he will stay here until Wednesday, when he will go to Cairo and Damascus and perhaps other Arab capitals.

The sources reported that Israel would be willing to participate in the "event" or "parley" [hitva'adut] summoned by the two superpowers, but it wants to agree in advance that this is a one-time process that will immediately lead to direct negotiations, and that the sides will then not be allowed to return to the host superpowers with unsolved issues. Israel will ask the United States to reaffirm its commitment not to ask Israel to negotiate with the PLO and its opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Although it will agree to take part in a conference summoned on the basis of UN Resolution 242, Israel will refuse to make an explicit commitment to the formula of "territories for peace," which is included in the resolution.

Israel also suggests that this conference be summoned only after the Arab states stop their boycott against it and announce the end of the state of belligerency with Israel. Both Israel and the United States are demanding that the Soviet Union reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel as a precondition to its participation in the process.

Political sources reported last night that five issues will be on Baker's agenda here: the regional conference, the drafting of Israel's stand on UN Resolution 242, the Palestinian representation, "confidence-building steps" toward the Palestinians, and the settlement issue. This last topic has caused embarrassment to the U.S. Administration and is believed to have diminished its prestige in the Arab capitals.

It is believed in Jerusalem that the U.S. criticism of Minister Sharon's declarations and the construction drive in the territories has so far been played down because of Baker's belief that he could make Shamir agree to take part in the suggested regional "event." Sources in Washington, however, reported that Baker wants Shamir to make clarifications, and that he will ask that settlement be frozen as proof that the Israeli Government is serious about the peace process. Baker will ask Shamir to explain the gap between his government's official statements and Minister Sharon's actions in the territories. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Levi, Aides on Upcoming Visit by Baker

Shamir on Talks With Palestinians

TA0704184791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 11800 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] In anticipation of another round of talks with James Baker, the prime minister says that one of the ideas that is being discussed is a regional conference with the participation of Palestinian representatives who are not members of the PLO. Mr. Shamir talked to reporters at the end of a visit to the Iranian Jews' festival at the Ramat Gan National Park. Our correspondent Gadi

Sukenik asked the prime minister if Israel would raise new ideas in discussions with the United States.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] There is a host of both new and less new ideas. We will talk to him the day after tomorrow. This will be a series of meetings which will not end even then. I hope that as a result of the cooperation with our friends in the United States, we will have more peace in the Middle East and, naturally, also in Eretz Yisra'el.

[Sukenik] Could you possibly be a little more specific and inform the citizens of Israel what you intend to suggest?

[Shamir] I cannot go into any further detail right now. You know that we are currently in the midst of talks. First our American friends must hear these ideas.

[Sukenik] But Mr. Shamir, in the final analysis it all boils down to territory for peace, no matter what you call it.

[Shamir] We will discuss peace.

[Sukenik] Would you now be prepared to discuss ceding even a little part of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?

[Shamir] I will talk about peace and security.

[Sukenik] Including territorial concessions?

[Shamir] Peace and security.

[Sukenik] Mr. Shamir, Mr. Levi talked this morning about a regional conference with the participation of non-PLO Palestinians. What is your comment?

[Shamir] That is possible. This is one of the ideas that is under discussion.

[Sukenik] Mr. Shamir, the average Israeli citizen at home asks himself whether we have made any progress at all toward peace since the Gulf war.

[Shamir] Definitely. We have made this progress thanks to our conduct and the wisdom we exhibited in setting our course of action during those tough days. I hope that through international recognition and support we will have greater peace. [end recording]

Shamir: Baker To Discuss Arab Ties

TA0704110191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the main subject of the discussions with Secretary Baker will be how to improve relations with the Arab world. The prime minister was speaking at this morning's cabinet meeting. Jack Katzenell reports:

There is no truth in the reports that Secretary Baker will apply pressure to Israel, Prime Minister Shamir told the cabinet. The secretary's visit is intended to continue the

discussions which began during his previous visit, and the main topic will be how to improve relations with the Arab countries.

The prime minister's reference to the Baker visit lasted only three minutes, and the cabinet held no discussion of the talks. Also present at the cabinet meeting was the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Zalman Shoval. In his view, any breakthrough in the peace process depends less on Israel than on the Arab countries.

[Begin Shoval recording] The central issue is whether the Arab states will finally make up their minds to recognize Israel's right to exist in this area, and whether they will accept Israel's positions that peace negotiations have to take place without prior conditions of any sort on any part. [end recording]

Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel should not be asked to commit itself in advance to withdrawal. This was a matter for negotiation, he said. By contrast, ministers from the small coalition parties—Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet—prefer a prior declaration from the government that they will not, under any circumstances, give up territory in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, or the Golan Heights. Tehiya's Yuval Ne'eman, for example, described the United States as a sorcerer's apprentice in the Middle East, not knowing what it was getting into. But in spite of the impending Baker visit, there was little tension at this morning's cabinet meeting, as can be seen from the fact that it broke up early so that the ministers could attend the Mimuna celebrations.

Levi Discusses Palestinian Issue

TA0704134391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Hayim Zissovitz and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Zissovitz] One of the issues publicized in the United States on the eve of James Baker's arrival in the region is Israel's settlement policy, including reports about intensive and accelerated construction in the territories. What is the government's policy on the issue? Has construction in settlements beyond the Green Line been frozen, or is such construction under way?

[Levi] First of all, there is nothing new. The Israeli Government has been realizing its right to settle in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It did not start doing that today, and it is still doing it. These are merely sensational and scandalous reports. With regard to this ongoing process, Israel has been fulfilling its commitment concerning new immigrants; namely, not to build houses to settle new immigrants in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. At the same time, Israel has not given any commitment to anybody to stop construction in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza altogether.

[Golan] What about UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338? This would seem to be one on the issues on which Baker would like to hear some explicit answers from you, the prime minister, or the defense minister.

[Levi] Here is the definitive answer to that issue: If we accepted others' interpretation of Resolution 242, we would actually be saying that negotiations are unnecessary, that there is no need for any initiative or efforts to promote the process. The meaning would be that Israel must withdraw from all the territories—which has been unacceptable to all Israeli governments—and that we would accept the outcome of the negotiations.

[Golan] Not from all the territories, but just from territories?

[Levi] Tell me, do you want to be the interpreter? Do you want me to conduct the negotiations with you, tell you what the other side strives for, and give you an answer right on the spot? If we announced our interpretation, people would say that we sabotaged the negotiations, and if we accepted the Arab interpretation, or some other one, then what would be the use of negotiations? Some things had better be said around the negotiating table. With peace being the goal, each side would spell out its position until a mutually acceptable formula is reached.

Israel issued a peace initiative concerning the Palestinian question. The inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza should accept Israel's peace initiative, which is the only initiative. Nobody else has an initiative, and any other initiative would take the easy way out: that is, bringing Israel to its knees. Israel will march toward peace, not through capitulation and dictates, but of its own initiative. Israel strives for peace.

[Golan] Based on Resolutions 242 and 338?

[Levi] Israel accepts Resolutions 242 and 338, which are not subject to a single interpretation or one direct outcome, as was in the case of Egypt. Every area has its own problems, and Israel has a position and different interests in each area. Based on our desire for peace, these questions should be deliberated around the negotiating table with the Arab countries without any preconditions, and with the Palestinian population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza according to Israel's peace initiative of 1989.

[Golan] Minister Levi, as far as the Palestinians go, for us the PLO is out of the question. Is the group of Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues with whom Baker met a month ago and whom he may meet during his current visit also out of the question? If so, who are we going to talk to in the territories?

[Levi] First of all, the PLO has disqualified itself, although I must say that as far as Israel is concerned it was never qualified. Some tried to regard it as a progressive, moderate, and peace-seeking body in order to influence it; others tried to force it on us as a national liberation movement. The PLO has shown on which side

it stands and what its conception is. It is a terror organization, which has also been ruled out by those who had supported it until now. Israel was right in ruling it out.

Israel does not rule out representatives of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who accept the peace initiative of 1989. If they declare that they are representatives of the PLO, however, then they will have to negotiate with themselves. If they seek peace, want to make progress and to take part in deciding their own fate, and accept all the components of Israel's peace initiative of 1989, we will sit with them.

[Golan] If they are prepared to talk to Baker, perhaps they are positive figures. Do you not think so?

[Levi] I will not say what is and what is not positive. As far as I am concerned, what counts is that if a person belongs to the PLO he is not qualified. If he is a resident of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who does not belong to the PLO, accepts Israel's peace initiative, and is prepared to participate in the process, then he is acceptable to me.

[Zissovitz] Foreign Minister David Levi, thank you and have a nice day.

Views Regional Conference, Kurds

TA0704071391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
 0500 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Zohar] It has been announced that the U.S. secretary of state will not be bringing along a new U.S. consolidated plan, but will be coming here for answers to some specific questions. We would like to know whether Israel has the answers to those questions, the first of which is: Is Israel initiating or prepared to take part in a regional conference?

[Levi] Israel has a plan, which is included in its peace initiative of 1989. As a result of serious developments, those who at one time supported the PLO now resent it. Our initiative contains a clause that the United States accepted and is trying to realize: parallel action. In other words, we want to deal not just with the Palestinian question, but also with peace with the Arab countries—the so-called two-track approach. We cannot be expected to issue a new initiative or plan each time somebody wants to talk to us. Israel will not engage in the national and international sport of coming out with a new plan every other day.

[Zohar] The question now is whether Israel accepts what the Americans term a regional conference. Is this included in the Israeli proposal?

[Levi] I am sorry to say that I do not understand the delayed reaction of the media. In our talks with Secretary Baker during his visit, I said that we are prepared to hold discussions with every Arab country individually or with

a group of countries, if the United States takes it upon itself to lead this move. This position is acceptable to Israel. It may be called a regional conference, a conference of neighbors, a conference of reconciliation between Israel and the Arab countries; the title makes no difference. What counts is the move itself. I am glad this is being discussed now. I reiterate; I raised this point in the talks with Secretary Baker. Such a conference would be fundamentally different from an international conference, which is a kind of tribunal. It would be a meeting between Israel and the Arab countries under the auspices of the United States. Such a conference would be adequate and necessary. [passage omitted]

[Zohar] Sir, Secretary Baker will be coming to Israel from Turkey, where he will be checking on the Kurdish situation. Does Israel have an unambiguous position on the call for the Americans and other Western countries, itself included, to help the Kurds in their struggle against Saddam Husayn?

[Levi] We definitely do. What is happening there is a hideous tragedy, but the world remains indifferent. Even so-called humanists and pacifists are beginning to realize that pangs of conscience begin only when interests are hurt.

[Dan] Why is Israel's voice not heard on the issue?

[Levi] Israel has voiced its position. What do you mean by voicing our position—that it should be done through cannons and active involvement? We would be accused of pushing the world to another war. The conscience of today's world is very selective. Genocide is taking place, while the world watches and does nothing. This is a tragedy that should remind us that, as we strive for peace, we must be cautious and strong, and that we should not rely on others to come to our rescue, God forbid. These are not extremist positions, but realistic ones, which reflect the bleak and ruthless reality of this region.

[Zohar] Do you think Israel can help the Kurds in any way?

[Levi] Israel can extend humanitarian aid in the form of food, medicine, and the like, as it has done on many other occasions in the past when natural disasters were involved. In this case, too, we are prepared to do our best. No other nation in the world feels what we do in the face of such a tragedy and catastrophe, which is not a natural disaster but the barbaric action of people who have no regard for mankind. Lkening those people to wild animals would be an offense to the latter.

Says State To Send Aid to Kurds

TA0804105491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Israel will send humanitarian aid to Kurdish refugees. This was announced this morning by Foreign Minister David Levi, who said he would raise the matter of the Kurds in his talks tomorrow with Secretary Baker.

Levi made the statement at a meeting with representatives of the Organization of Kurdish Jews in Israel. Miryam Herschlag reports:

Foreign Minister Levi told representatives of the country's Kurdish Jewish community that Israel is organizing humanitarian aid to Kurdish refugees. A Foreign Ministry official says the aid will be sent in a matter of days, but declined to say what it would amount to. The foreign minister also said humanitarian aid is not enough. The world is responsible, he said, not for whether the Kurds die on full or empty stomachs, but for ending the massacre. Levi said he would raise the matter with Secretary Baker and would ask him to meet with a delegation of Kurdish Jews. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 8 April adds the following recorded portion of Levi's remarks: "It is true that the poor Kurds do not control oil wells; nevertheless, they are human beings, they are a nation that is being massacred right now. Israel is preparing to send humanitarian aid, but the world must help."]

Country 'Cannot Be Pressured'

TA0604111791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The prime minister's bureau says that there is no room for agitation around the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Jerusalem next week. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser, told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Baker no doubt knows that Israel cannot be pressured and that coordination and understanding with it should be reached. He added that the prime minister has already proved before that he knows how to defend Israel's positions. There is nothing to fear, personnel at the prime minister's bureau say. They estimate that talks with Baker will not focus on the controversial settlement issue.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will confer with the U.S. secretary of state on Tuesday. Baker will arrive in Israel on Monday night.

Shamir Aide Ben-Aharon on Visit

TA0704145791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Mikha Friedman and Li'ora Lanir—live]

[Text] [Friedman] I would like to know how the Prime Minister's Office is reacting to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's sudden announcement on the eve of the holiday that he will be in Israel in four days. Among friends it is not done to come without saying so well in advance, without consultations, without asking if everybody will be home.

[Ben-Aharon] It is not a problem, because we are interested in U.S. involvement and in promoting anything

that can bring about a positive outcome. Therefore, among friends you do not need a lot of advance warning about a visit.

[Friedman] It was also asked in today's cabinet meeting whether the visit, or what it might bring in its wake, is not the start of U.S. pressure on the State of Israel since Baker is forcing himself on us?

[Ben-Aharon] He is not forcing himself on us because there was talk between the prime minister and Baker during his earlier visit that he would be coming back. Therefore, although an exact date was not fixed, it did not come as a surprise. In reference to pressure: I do not know how to say it in clear, precise Hebrew. I suggest that we do not need to use the expression because there is no pressure, and I do not believe there will be any since Israel wants to reach a settlement and will continue to desire it even without any pressure as long as it is a settlement we can live with.

[Friedman] Three weeks ago when Baker was first here it was said that Israel would present him with new ideas. Shamir now says, and his remarks were quoted in all the media this morning, that once again we have new ideas. Should the wealth of new ideas indicate something about the earlier ideas—that they did not please the Americans so much?

[Ben-Aharon] The basics do not change. We want peace and direct negotiations because we believe this is the way to reach a real dialogue between partners to a process to coexistence. All the rest—the technical details, the makeup, the site of the meeting, the dates for a meeting, with which country talks begin, who will be the representatives of the population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—are all secondary issues. They are important in themselves, and there is room for innovation in those fields, which must be adjusted to what has happened in the region. For instance, Jordan was out of the game a year ago, but there are now signs that it wants to rejoin. That has an impact on the process.

[Lanir] You are somewhat demeaning the importance of things on which governments have fallen, but even if we continue your line of thought, then what innovations can we offer Baker in the wake of the developments that have taken place in the region?

[Ben-Aharon] I cannot, of course, go into substance because that is the very essence of the dialogue. We are preparing for Baker's arrival on that very issue, how to define the innovations, how to present them. A team in the Prime Minister's Office is dealing with that.

[Lanir] Then just hint to us, are we talking about substantive things or cosmetics?

[Ben-Aharon] It is well known that the issue on the agenda is a settlement to be achieved through two parallel tracks: negotiations with the Arab states, and implementation of the article in the Camp David accords dealing with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and

the Gaza Strip. The connection between those two things, and how to cross the threshold and begin the process, is where all the intensive efforts are being invested by the team that will present its recommendations to the prime minister and the ministers dealing with the issue. Then, we will be ready to present them to the secretary when he arrives tomorrow night.

[Friedman] With your permission, I would like you, if you can do so publicly, to deal with this morning's report in YEDI'OT AHARONOT that Baker has already presented us with three detailed questions and that he is expecting to hear answers. These are: Israel's readiness to participate in a regional conference; a public declaration by Israel that it accepts Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for talks; and the Palestinian delegation, which will include a resident of East Jerusalem.

[Ben-Aharon] The focus on Resolutions 242 and 338 is an outcome of Arab insistence to extricate from Israel some sort of commitment, even before negotiations, about a withdrawal from the territory—or territories—in return for peace. Or, in other words, to accept the territory-for-peace formula. They will not get such an undertaking, and they should realize that, but they try. That is because 242 can be interpreted in various ways, and the Israeli interpretation is no less legitimate than that of the Arabs. The Israeli interpretation says that there does not have to be a withdrawal from all sectors. There can be a significant and extensive withdrawal from one sector and no withdrawal from another. All that must be left to negotiations, in accordance with the resolution attached to 242, in other words 338, which speaks about a solution through negotiations between the sides.

[Lanir] Mr. Ben-Aharon, there is at least one U.S. and not Arab stumbling block on the path to negotiations, which we know about: settlements. The Americans have expressed dissatisfaction and opposition several times in the past to additional settlements in Judaea and Samaria. In THE WASHINGTON POST today there was a report that even referred to a large number of new residents there.

[Friedman] In apartments and mobile homes.

[Lanir] Yes, what do you have to say about that?

[Ben-Aharon] The report was not published today, but a few days ago, but that does not matter. As you know, it is a controversial issue between the political parties in Israel. It is copied by the foreign correspondents in the U.S. press and as a result the U.S. Administration asks us questions. The issue is to what extent we abide by the policy we presented to Baker many months ago. In other words, settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is an existing principle we insist on. We will not prevent any Jew from settling in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the Israeli Government will not direct the Soviet immigrants to settle in those areas because that involves use of U.S. aid or loans. Since the United States does not want to contribute to

settlements, we take upon ourselves not to direct Soviet Jews to those areas. I would like to add, it is not an obstacle to advancing the peace process.

Other Ministers Comment

TA0704193991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin]

[Excerpts] On the eve of James Baker's arrival, Jerusalem received two reports that were termed encouraging, and they came from Europe, of all places. The first is a message from British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to David Levi. In his letter, Hurd wrote that there is no doubt that the key to progress is the two-track approach Israel had suggested; he added that it is gaining more ground in the Middle East. I am convinced it would be possible to encourage the Arab countries to move toward a direct dialogue with Israel, he wrote.

The second report deals with the talks King Husayn held recently with German figures, including Foreign Minister Genscher. The impression the Germans got was that Husayn's views on promoting the peace process run parallel to Israel's. According to that report, Jordan has adopted the two-track approach, which distinguishes between the Arab countries and the Palestinians.

Despite all this, Jerusalem tends to regard Baker's visit as another step in the preliminary investigation, namely a cautious and sophisticated search for formulas that will be acceptable to both parties in a bid to bring about the convocation of an opening conference for negotiations. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister did not participate in today's cabinet session. He attended the Mimuna festivities in the north today, and the cabinet devoted only a short time to James Baker's visit. Mr. Shamir said that the media reports on U.S. criticism of Israel's actions is nothing but rumor and that there is no indication of impending pressure.

The ministers somehow made do with this short statement and did not turn this session into a debate on what to do or what to offer. Neither did they raise the issue of the massacre of the Kurds. The impression is that the fact that the ministers refrained from presenting questions does not necessarily mean that they have the answers. On the contrary. Still, after the session, several ministers presented a range of views:

[Begin recording] [Science and Technology Minister Yuval Ne'eman] I do not think there is a need for some statement at this juncture. Perhaps Baker has something to say, so let us hear that.

[Interior Minister Arye Der'i] The moment Baker accepted the Israeli Government's demand that the discussions proceed along a parallel track and focus primarily on the Arab countries and a regional conference—and the prime minister has consented to this—I

hope the discussions really are practical. Still, the proof of the pudding will be if Baker brings with him partners for talks or whether Israel is again left to stand alone in this.

[Education and Culture Minister Zvulun Hammer] Israel should talk to Palestinians who will arrive as a delegation—Palestinians who will first of all disavow terrorism in all its manifestations, including the terrorist aspects of the intifadah, and who will also renounce those parts of the Palestinian charter which talk about negating the existence of Israel.

[Health Minister Ehud Olmert] I think the most important thing we have to do is listen to Baker and hear him out.

[Unidentified reporter] But he wants answers from Israel.

[Olmert] I do not know that for a fact. To the best of my knowledge, he is not seeking answers from Israel. I do not believe the contacts with the United States are being held on the basis of some bookkeeping in which one side checks whether it presented a question yesterday and if an answer to it has already been given.

[Economics and Planning Minister David Magen] As far as I know, Baker is not expecting answers to questions that have not yet been asked. I know that he comes as part of his efforts to create a better climate between the Arab countries and Israel. We are not being asked at the moment to come up with any new initiative. The United States has been aware of the government's position for a long time. [end recording]

Right-Wing Parties Demand Firm Stand

TA0604112991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] More reactions to the impending visit of the U.S. secretary of state: Sara Doron, Likud caucus leader, says that a fundamental prerequisite for any peace process in the region is an end to terrorism and the intifadah and the condemnation of the PLO. She claims that Baker has already shown his political acumen. He is quite familiar with the Israeli political reality, and consequently knows very well that applying pressure will not make the Israeli Government budge.

Knesset Member [MK] Elyaqim Ha'etzni of Tehiya has appealed to the prime minister with a request that Shamir fully support Minister Sharon and the building momentum in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, and that he also stand firm on disqualifying the PLO for any negotiations. For that purpose, Ha'etzni demands that charges be filed against Radwan Abu-'Ayyash over his membership in the Unified National Command of the Uprising. Ha'etzni demands that the indictment be submitted this week, before Abu-'Ayyash is discharged from administrative detention.

Moledet says that the growing pressure from the U.S. Administration is the logical conclusion from the government's hazy peace initiative. Faction Chairman MK Ya'ir Sprinzak says that it is high time the government declared, in no uncertain terms, that Israel will not terminate the settlement drive in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, and will not cede its sovereignty over these areas.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 6 April adds that "Shinuy is collecting signatures" from Knesset members to call an extraordinary recess session "to discuss Baker's visit, which it deems is a warning signal for the government. Shinuy says the time has come for the prime minister to take his head out of the sand and open his eyes to the international reality.

["Peace Now called on the government to call off immediately all construction work in the settlements to create a climate favorable to the opening of negotiations and to allow for U.S. pressure on the Arab countries and the Palestinians. The movement also says that it will support all pressure that will bring Mr. Shamir to the negotiating table."]

Ambassador to U.S. Interviewed

TA0604192691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1815 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Interview with Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador to Washington, by anchorman David Witztthum and political correspondent Imanu'el Halperin—live]

[Text] [Witztthum] We understand that your visit is being extended due to the Baker visit.

[Shoval] Then I should thank Baker.

[Witztthum] Is the fact that Baker is coming back to us after a month's break an encouraging sign or perhaps a sign of the bulldozer tactics they plan to use?

[Shoval] No, in my view there will certainly be no bulldozer tactics, but the continuation of the process Baker began on his previous visit. There might be a certain speeding up of the agenda, but no basic change. When Baker was here before he raised a number of questions, and the clarifications have so far been discussed between him and me, and with other representatives. We can assume that he will delve further into those questions and perhaps also deal with the answers during his current visit. I would like to stress that a no less important reason, perhaps the main reason for his current visit, is Baker's visit to the Arab states, because he also expects answers from them.

[Halperin] Yes, but he expects an answer from us on UN Resolution 242. Does a declaration of readiness to accept 242 not mean a readiness to withdraw from all sectors?

[Shoval] No, certainly not. In the past, Israel accepted UN Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for peace

negotiations, and I suppose that will more or less also be the stand of the State of Israel this time. Under no circumstances are 242 and the territory-for-peace formula identical. I can even add that to a certain extent territory for peace is a distortion of 242 because the resolution contains a number of different elements. For example, the security element is no less important than that of withdrawal from the territories. Israel has the right to say, for instance, that we took a reasonable security risk by withdrawing from the Sinai, by giving up hundreds of kilometers of desert and the canal, and so forth, and that we cannot take a similar risk in a region situated 10 minutes from the heart of Tel Aviv, 1.5 minutes from Ben-Gurion Airport, and 1.5 seconds from the center of Jerusalem. In other words, there is a framework, a basis, but that is not necessarily the formula to be used for negotiations.

[Witztthum] Mr. Shoval, on the issue of what the Arabs will give us: You referred to a withdrawal. Is there a chance to end the state of belligerency without a clear Israeli undertaking to withdraw from the Golan Heights?

[Shoval] I do not know. I would say that in general a new situation has been created in the wake of the Gulf war. By the way, I would like to point out that from Israel's viewpoint the situation has improved greatly in the past year. There is, of course, a new situation now and the minimum we expect from the Arab states, those which were part of the U.S. coalition, is to say: Folks, we are prepared to end the state of belligerency against Israel. This is especially true since it involves some states like Saudi Arabia, which never had a conflict with us. They declared war on the State of Israel and did not end that situation. Yet I believe there is no reason for those states not to declare now: We are prepared to end the state of belligerency, we are prepared to end the Arab economic boycott. That, in fact, parallels the U.S. two-track approach [last three words in English].

[Halperin] Mr. Shoval, on the issue of the Palestinian delegation. The composition now being discussed is different from what was proposed about a year ago. What does that mean? No deportees, no East Jerusalemites, no overt PLO?

[Shoval] I believe there are two important components here. Last year, the peace process was suspended basically for two reasons: One, the PLO's involvement in the process—the semi-official negotiations between the PLO and the United States in Tunis; two, the issue of the delegation's composition, the issue of the Jerusalem representative, which we did not agree to, and the representative of what is called the Palestinian diaspora, so that there should not be even a hint of agreeing to the right of return. If that has now changed—in other words, if there is now talk about a Palestinian delegation only from the territories without any link to any PLO and no connection to Jerusalem or the diaspora—then I suppose that the personnel issues in the composition of the delegation will be easier to resolve.

Palestinians on Peace Process, Meeting With Baker

'New Approach,' Phased Solution Seen

TA0804044891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] For the first time, senior Palestinian leaders in the territories have expressed their consent in principle to discuss a phased solution of the Palestinian problem, provided that Israel, at the outset of negotiations, make a commitment to negotiate its withdrawal from the territories in the final stage. These sources assert that PLO leaders in Tunis support this new approach.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a has learned that aides of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and of Egyptian President Mubarak have been apprised of the new Palestinian stance. This stance will presumably be presented to Secretary of State Baker during his meeting in Jerusalem with a delegation of notables from the territories.

PLO leaders and leading Palestinians in the territories do not rule out the proposal that calls for the participation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the initial stage of the talks.

Delegation To Meet Baker

TA0704072291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] There will apparently be a meeting between Secretary of State James Baker and a Palestinian delegation, says Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who participated in the previous delegation. The upcoming visit has already aroused differences of opinion in the territories, similar to those that emerged during Baker's visit a month ago. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports:

James Baker's latest visit to Israel aroused sharp differences of opinion in the territories, which culminated in a harsh confrontation among the PLO's various factions. Diverse comments are already being heard about a possible meeting between a Palestinian delegation and Baker.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who participated in the previous meeting, in which the 11-point document was presented, told us last night that such a meeting is most likely to be held. It is too early to tell what we will present to the secretary of state, Frayj said, but we will do everything we can to promote the peace process in the region and once again demand international legitimization for the advancement of peace initiatives. Frayj added that the time of the meeting will be set today, and that the composition of the delegation meeting Baker will apparently be no different from that of the previous delegation. As for approval by the PLO leadership in Tunis, notables in the territories said that approval given last time applies in principle to further talks with Baker.

The secretary of state's previous visit aroused harsh accusations and blunt denunciations of the Palestinian leaders who conferred with him. Sa'id Kan'an of Nablus says that this time, too, there is opposition to such a meeting among Palestinian public opinion.

Public Figures Divided

TA0704200291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Palestinian public figures are unclear about the composition of the delegation that will confer with James Baker. Telephone contacts were held today between various notables in the territories and PLO activists abroad. One of the leading Palestinian leaders in the territories said today, off the record, that this time, too, the PLO will ultimately endorse the meeting with Baker. Our correspondent Amir Hay reports:

[Begin recording] [Hay] The impact of Baker's earlier visit can still be felt very acutely. Even the paint used in the graffiti scribbled on Faysal al-Husayni's home against the meeting with Baker, which was written and erased and rewritten and erased again, has not yet dried.

People in the territories say that if Baker comes to the region for the second time in a month, this is an encouraging sign. Still, there is an argument over the meeting. Those who favor it say that the situation that has been created constitutes an opening for the solution to the problem, while opponents say that the meetings come at the expense of the PLO and harm it.

The daily AL-FAJR today publishes in a prominent place the Israeli plan for a network of roads in the territories. In the accompanying article, editor Hanna Sinyurah writes that this plan indicates Israel's desire to carve up Judea and Samaria and add more settlements along the new arteries. This time Sinyurah is one of the candidates for the meeting with Baker, if the composition of the previous delegation that met with Baker is changed.

[Sinyurah, in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has expressed his desire for another meeting with the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem. The Palestinian side has expressed a similar desire. Thus, right now we are talking only about coordination between the Palestinians here and abroad, namely between Palestinians in the occupied territories and their leadership, which is the PLO, to appoint the delegation that will meet with James Baker.

[Hay] People affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] today canceled a news conference at the National Palace Hotel in East Jerusalem, in which Riyadh al-Maliki was expected to present the group's opposition to the meeting with Baker. There is an argument in the PFLP over the matter.

Leaflets disseminated in various places throughout the territories, including some signed by Fatah supporters, accuse Faysal al-Husayni of widening the chasm between

PLO headquarters in Tunis and the leadership in the territories. Another leaflet criticizes the visit to Cairo by Fayiz Abu-Rahmah and his colleagues. The fury was over their departure for the Egyptian capital, which has refused to accept 'Arafat.

Despite all this, people are again busy working on a list of people for the meeting with Baker, and again some people will oppose the very meeting. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1930 GMT on 7 April adds that "Faysal al-Husayni, who headed the delegation at the previous meeting with Baker, reports that the PLO leadership in Tunis has endorsed the meeting with the secretary. He claims the composition of the delegation is now being discussed.

["Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, considered the main representative of the PFLP in Judaea and Samaria, said tonight that he has no intention of conferring with the secretary of state.

["Rumors are rife in the territories that some of the notables who met with Baker last time will hold a news conference in East Jerusalem tomorrow afternoon to announce their refusal to participate in the scheduled meeting. This contention is supported in a Palestinian Communist Party manifesto distributed in the territories today, which calls on the Palestinians not to meet with the secretary of state" by explaining that "the U.S. Administration treats the Palestinian problem not in accordance with the international legitimacy granted the issue nor with UN resolutions."]

Communist Party Opposes Meeting

TA0704171991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The Palestinian Communist Party this evening published a manifesto in which it expresses opposition to a meeting between a Palestinian delegation from the territories and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Palestinian Communist Party is one of the four bodies that form the Unified National Command of the Uprising. In its manifesto, the party said that such a meeting would not serve the Palestinians' interests and that all negotiations should be held within the framework of the United Nations and the Security Council and must be conducted under the umbrella of an international conference.

Sharon Denies Settling Immigrants in Territories

TA0704090891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Housing and Construction Minister Ari'el Sharon by Hayim Zissovitz—live]

[Excerpts] [Zissovitz] Minister Sharon, I would like to begin this interview by asking you a few questions about the political issue. On the eve of James Baker's visit to Israel, THE WASHINGTON POST carried an article

about the settlement drive and construction for immigrants in the territories. According to that report, 3,000 immigrants have settled in the territories. Can you confirm those figures?

[Sharon] There is no construction for immigrants in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. We are not settling or sending immigrants there. That has been clarified by the prime minister, and I myself have stated it on more than one occasion. To date, out of the 265,000 immigrants who came to Israel in the latest wave, I estimate that approximately 1 percent took residence in Judaea and Samaria; that is, very few. Of course, this figure does not include Jerusalem, the united capital of Israel. With regard to Jerusalem, Israel has reiterated that we will settle immigrants there—and that is what we have been doing.

[Zissovitz] Those who take residence in those areas are doing it of their own free will and not following a government policy?

[Sharon] The government settles immigrants in Jerusalem, which is an integral part of the State of Israel. Jerusalem is totally out of this question. As for Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, the numbers are very small. We are not sending immigrants there. We definitely build there for the Israeli people, just as we build elsewhere in Israel, according to the government's policy and its basic guidelines.

[Zissovitz] If James Baker demands from his Israeli interlocutors an explicit commitment not to expand construction and settlement beyond the Green Line, what should Israel's reply be?

[Sharon] I trust Prime Minister Shamir to make it abundantly clear to the visitor that we welcome him, and that Israel has always built, is building today, and will continue to build in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. This does not hinder the peace process—quite the contrary. In my opinion, as Israel comes to feel more secure, the chances for peace increase. I repeat, we are not sending or settling immigrants in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District.

[Zissovitz] Among other things, it is known that Baker will demand from Israel an explicit public declaration that it accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Should Israel comply with such a demand?

[Sharon] Israel has already complied with such a request, and indeed carried out those resolutions when it ceded the Sinai during negotiations with Egypt. Israel made good on those resolutions, in accordance with the decisions of past Israeli governments. [passage omitted]

[Zissovitz] If your proposal is accepted and Israeli law is applied to Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, should Israel continue to give in to the U.S. dictates concerning the settlement of immigrants in those areas?

[Sharon] We have made it abundantly clear that our position on the settlement of immigrants is not based on the fact that we have changed our mind about the strategic importance of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Especially today, after what happened in the Persian Gulf, we appreciate the importance of strategic depth even more than before. We decided not to settle immigrants in those areas so as not to affect immigration from the Soviet Union. We have made that clear, and that is exactly what we are doing. [passage omitted]

Shamir Asks Mubarak To Urge End of Violence

TA0804110391 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
8 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has asked Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to issue a public call to the inhabitants of the territories to stop the violence and give political action a chance, in order to make it easier for Israel to lift the restrictions imposed on them and improve the quality of life of the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Shamir's call is included in a personal message he sent to the Egyptian president, in reply to a missive the latter sent him last week.

Shamir expresses his agreement in principle to take action aimed at reducing weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms in the region, as proposed by Mubarak, on condition that a process of mutual confidence-building is launched between the sides.

The prime minister further writes that he agrees with the Egyptian president's statement that a historic opportunity has been created which could increase the prospects for peace in the region. According to Shamir, the reason for this is that "the vicious terrorist Saddam Husayn, who had posed a threat to his neighbors, has been taught a lesson and his ability to launch an attack has been significantly impaired. Nevertheless, we should also point out that the Gulf war exposed the fragility and chronic instability of our region, as well as the poor credibility of many regimes in this region."

Shamir stresses that the Gulf war disproved the assertion that peace between Israel and the Arab countries cannot be promoted in any way unless the Palestinian problem is solved. He calls on Mubarak to put such a concept aside and proceed toward coexistence amid peace and understanding.

Referring to a solution to the Palestinian problem, Shamir says that Israel is committed by the Camp David accords and the government initiative of May 1989 to promote such a solution and is willing to resume the efforts on this matter without further delay.

High Court Suspends Deportations Pending Appeal

TA0804075391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0730 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] This morning the High Court of Justice issued interim orders deferring the deportation of the four Fatah activists from the Gaza Strip until their appeals are heard. The hearings will be held this week before three judges.

Foreign Minister Discusses Baker Meeting

NC0804133491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Suhayl Khuri; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Your Excellency, there are reports that you will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Where and when will that meeting be held, and what hopes does Jordan attach to Baker's visit to the region?

[Al-Masri] Yes, I will meet with Mr. James Baker in Geneva on Friday [12 April] to raise the level of contacts between the United States and Jordan, which were interrupted some time ago. My meeting with James Baker is part of efforts by the United States to find a solution to the region's issues, particularly the Palestinian problem.

Because Jordan has a basic role to play in any solution or any effort related to the region, this meeting is necessary for a solution—for the region and for Jordan. Other meetings may take place in the near future. The core of the discussion, however, will be ways to handle the Palestinian issue in the manner that Jordan believes will guarantee a just and comprehensive, as well as rapid, settlement. International legitimacy should be enforced in accordance with the same criteria applied in the past few months, during the Gulf crisis. Nothing specific has been proposed as yet, either on the part of the United States or any other party. We want to have a say in these consultations and in their results. God willing, the results will be positive.

[Khuri] We thank His Excellency Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Press Comments on Upcoming Visit by Baker**Motives Questioned**

NC0704145191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
7 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "What Does Baker Carry With Him?"]

[Text] James Baker's new tour to a number of Middle Eastern states, scheduled to begin today, less than a month after his last visit to the region, raises many questions regarding the motives and objectives of this visit, especially as U.S. officials say it will focus on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Of course, this tour indicates an increasing U.S. diplomatic interest in the Middle East conflict and shows practical proof that Washington wishes to exploit the situation resulting from the Gulf war along with its material concomitants into political facts that serve U.S. interests and global aspirations. This is being done because the United States is the undisputed international power with hegemony over the course of war and peace, not only in the Middle East but in the entire world.

We do not wish to cast suspicions or pose questions about this just-begun tour. We prefer to wait and see what new ideas or initiatives Baker brings with him. We will ignore the constant U.S. failure for years to move one step down this road, a failure caused by the presence of the Palestine question and the U.S. concern to maintain it outside the international framework represented in the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

Perhaps this time the United States wants to test its strategic ally in the region and truly intends to force Yitzhaq Shamir's government to comply with the principles of international legitimacy and UN Security Council resolutions. This may be the case especially because Israel, during the period between Baker's two visits, adopted a series of measures and positions that clearly indicate its objection to the principle of withdrawal, exchanging land for peace, and resolving all aspects of the Palestine question.

It is noted, however, that during the last few weeks the Israeli Government adopted a number of repressive practices and settlement policies, violated basic rights, and did all it could to divert the Middle East from the course to aspired peace and dispel any chance to place the Palestine question on the course to a just and comprehensive peace.

Hence, we will continue to raise questions on this visit; questions on its timing, the essence of the new diplomatic process, and even its short-term objectives until we hear and see how the United States deals with its Israeli ally. This ally has gone far with its policy of rejection and practices that contradict the logic of peace based on justice, right, and international law.

While awaiting all this, we do not wish to deceive ourselves with regard to the movement that James Baker has begun, especially since we realize that the U.S. secretary of state adopts the same Israeli position on the legitimate Palestinian demands and the issue of Palestinian representation. Moreover, he has exerted all his influence and pressures in the region to weaken the Arabs' commitment to the Palestine question, marginalize the idea of an international conference, and force the various Arab capitals to accept bilateral negotiations with Israel away from the Palestinian representatives and away from the UN umbrella and UN Security Council resolutions.

State's Role in Process Stressed

NC0704163491 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Apr 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Baker's Tour"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is scheduled to begin a tour in the Middle East today to hold talks that primarily focus on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Among the already-announced stations where Baker will stop during his tour are Israel and Egypt. It is still unknown whether the U.S. secretary of state carries a specific plan or ideas

that would facilitate his task, or whether his tour would be confined to finding new ideas and trends in the parties with whom he will talk.

Regardless of the given facts, the U.S. movement in the region must be viewed with open and aware Arab eyes. Moreover, the pan-Arab duty calls for dealing with this movement in light of a unified pan-Arab view by any Arab side with which Baker would hold talks. More precisely and clearly, we say that the Arabs with whom the U.S. secretary of state will meet must be careful not to allow his tour to become a weapon to dismember what remains of the Arab ranks or to be used by Washington as a pretext to claim later that some Arab parties accepted what others rejected. The Arab-Israeli dimension of the Middle East crisis must remain closely linked to the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the question. Consequently, we must be cautious against any U.S. attempt to separate the two dimensions, or strike the Palestinians' right to choose their representatives in the peace process or play a principal role in it.

Moreover, we must stress anew that how the Jordanian role is dealt with in any efforts to establish peace in the region reflects the sincerity and intentions of these efforts. It is known that Jordan, which is committed to peace, has a principal role in making peace. Jordan's role is recognized by all international forums and peace-loving people.

Baker's tour is one of the developments that must force the Arabs to unite, work sincerely and actively to overcome the negative points of the past, and exert the utmost efforts to build a better future for the Arab nation. Any efforts by the others can never be enough to become an alternative to the unified Arab effort that would contribute to making real peace and pushing the region toward stability and prosperity.

King Husayn Phones Syrian, Yemeni Presidents

NC0804052791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to exchange views with them on recent Arab developments and the future of joint Arab action. They also evaluated the current international moves.

PLO's Mahumud 'Abbas Arrives in Amman

NC0704130891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Amman—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, arrived in Amman yesterday.

An official Palestinian source has told AL-RA'Y that the visit, which is part of the continuing coordination between the PLO and Jordan, is taking place to brief Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the regional political situation.

Minister, Others Condemn UN Resolution, U.S.

NC0604193091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
6 Apr 91 pp 24, 18

[Text] Amman—Mosque preachers yesterday criticized the UN Security Council resolution against Iraq and described it as unjust. During the sermon he gave at Martyr King 'Abdallah Mosque, His Eminence Dr. Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, said that this resolution violates all the international charters and constitutes a new link in the conspiracy against the Arab and Islamic homeland. He also stressed that the resolution should be rejected.

He added: The Arabs and Muslims should not accept these unjust resolutions aimed at subjugating the Arab and Islamic peoples. The Abu-Qurah Mosque preachers also denounced the resolution against Iraq. They said: It will not alter the march of our Arab and Islamic nation. We should confront all these resolutions aimed at humiliating our nation in various ways. Other preachers called for an economic boycott of the United States, and asserted that the United States stands behind these resolutions that are issued to destroy the powers of Islam and the Muslims.

The Muslim Brotherhood yesterday announced its rejection of Security Council Resolution 687 against Iraq, saying that they violate the UN Charter and human rights. During a massive popular rally attended by more than 25,000 people, the group stressed the need to boycott the United States.

House of Representatives member Muhammad al-Azayidha described America as the number one enemy of the Muslims, and called for the withdrawal of its forces from the Arabian Peninsula and southern Iraq. He also urged the Arab and Islamic nation to support Iraq fully at this difficult stage. Preachers also stressed their rejection of the resolution and described it as "an ugly crime."

Banners were raised during the rally which said: "Death to the Enemies of the Muslims," "No to the Agents' Positions," and "Jihad Is the Road to Palestine...and No to the Liquidation of Palestine." The rally was attended by representatives of the Islamic organizations, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ibrahim Ghawshah then delivered a speech in which he vigorously attacked the United States, describing it as the enemy of the Muslims. He also stressed the need for the peace-loving countries to support the Palestine question.

Afghanistan

Protests Lodged Over Attack on Khowst

*LD0604200191 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[Text] The Pakistani Embassy charge d'affaires was summoned this morning to the Foreign Ministry, and a protest note of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was conveyed to him by the head of the First Political Section of that ministry with the following text:

According to reports, following the shameful offensive of units of Pakistan's Army on Khowst, mercenary extremists with the direct assistance of Pakistan's Army are looting, plundering, and transferring property and belongings of the defenseless people of Khowst to Pakistan.

This shameful act, which threatens the security of people's lives and property, is against all moral and humanitarian standards, the provisions of the Geneva accords, and accepted international principles. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan conveys its strong protest against these shameful actions of Pakistan's Government and demands that that country take action as soon as possible toward restitution of property and belongings plundered from Khowst, and to prevent this inhumane process.

Government Protests Pakistani Senator's Acts

*LD0704154991 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 7 Apr 91*

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned this afternoon to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and a strong protest note from the Republic of Afghanistan Government was conveyed to him by the head of the first political section of the ministry. The note has the following text:

According to reliable information, in continuation of direct intervention by Pakistan's Army and militias in Khowst Province, recently a Pakistani senator named Qazi Hussian Ahmad, amir of the extremists party of Pakistan's Islamic Society, traveled to Khowst Province with a number of leaders of Afghan armed extremist opposition groups stationed in Pakistan, without holding a passport and entry visa to the Republic of Afghanistan.

In addition, the information received adds that units of the Pakistani Army and militia, along with extremist mercenaries, continue to loot and transfer the property of the defenseless people of Khowst to Pakistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan Government strongly protests against the illegal entry of the Pakistani senator into Afghan territory, which is against the principles of international relations and is considered flagrant interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. Afghanistan demands of Pakistan's Government that it prevent such interferences and looting of people's property in Khowst. It should not allow the subjects of its

country, for whatever reason, to enter the Republic of Afghanistan illegally. Naturally, responsibility for the grave consequences resulting from repetition of such interference and looting will rest on the relevant authorities in Pakistan.

Najibullah Sends Messages on Khowst Situation

To Arab Countries

*LD0504180591 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent separate messages to His Excellency King Husayn of Jordan; His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and head of the state of Palestine; His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Arab Republic of Syria; His Excellency Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; His Excellency Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, president of Tunisia; His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, president of Algeria, His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution and al-Fatih of 1 September of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; and His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen. The messages deal with the situation created as a result of the military offensive by the extremists' opposition, with the direct cooperation and instruction of Pakistani military circles, against Khowst city which has resulted in the martyrdom and wounding of our nonmilitary compatriots including women, children, and elderly people in Khowst city.

Having explained the plans of Pakistan's military circles and the direct cooperation of Pakistan's army and militia with the extremist opposition forces in the offensive against Khowst city, the messages state that this aggression launched by Pakistan's militarists is being carried out at a time when at the international level the opportunity has been created for countries and nations to solve their internal disagreements by means of dialogue and understanding. On the other hand, the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, with a new formulation in its foreign policy, has expressed hopes to normalize ties with its neighbors. Regarding ties with Pakistan, it has specifically proposed that instead of military confrontation, economic and good-neighborliness should be established between both countries.

Contrary to this spirit, however, Pakistan's government—based on its conspiratorial plans and in collaboration with Gulbuddin, its well-known spy, acting against the principles of peaceful coexistence among nations and openly violating international law and the provisions of the Geneva accords—has greedily eyed the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan and shamelessly attacked Khowst city.

Taking into account the profound Islamic, fraternal, and historic relations between the people and governments of these countries, hope has been expressed that, using the

influence and trust that the leaders of these countries enjoy in the world and the Arab countries, they will apply good efforts to take action to thwart Pakistan's aggression against our sacred land. It should not be allowed that the continuation of such provocation and aggression by Pakistan's government will cause the intensification of conflicts and more bloodshed in the region.

Describes 'Aggression' to India

LD0604175991 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah has sent a message to Delhi, addressed to His Excellency Ramaswami Vinkatarman, president of India, on the tense situation created by the clear interference and aggression on Khowst city by Pakistan's military forces and militia in collaboration with the extremist groups of the opposition.

Stating specific anti-Afghan plans pursued by the Government of Pakistan, leading to the aggression of that country into the sanctuary of the Republic of Afghanistan, the message maintains: The Republic of Afghanistan, whose foreign policy is based on a strong foundation of nonaligned, peaceful coexistence and respect for the UN Charter and other accepted international norms, wants to ensure the consolidation of peace, security, and stability in the region and the world. The Republic of Afghanistan, in light of positive changes at the world level and because of its sense of responsibility for peace and stability in the region, has made efforts to adopt a national reconciliation policy, on the basis of which not only has the peaceful solution of the Afghan issue been made possible, but ground has been prepared for providing the requisite conditions for ensuring peace and stability in the region.

But Pakistan, against all accepted international norms and standards, and against the principle of respect for national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of countries, embarked on clear aggression against our country. As a result of these aggressive acts by Pakistan, not only has a serious danger been posed to the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of our country, but a regional conflict has also been made possible. This situation will no doubt be a cause of concern for our Indian friends, whose country has time and time again been interfered with by Pakistan.

Confidence has been expressed in the message that the Republic of India, as a neighboring country and active member of the nonaligned countries, enjoying international credibility and prestige, will make the requisite efforts for stopping Pakistan's aggression against the territorial integrity of our country, especially in Khowst Province, during these historic moments when our country has been openly aggressed upon by Pakistan, and will not allow this kind of aggression to lead to the intensification of the regional situation's precariousness.

Najibullah Receives UN Aid Official

LD0704160191 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1430 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The presidential press office reports to BAKHTAR that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this afternoon at the presidential headquarters with His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and envoy of the UN secretary general and organizer of the UN humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan.

During this meeting, which was also attended by Mohammad Eshaq Tokhi, adviser to the president, His Excellency Benon Sevan briefed esteemed Najibullah about the recent efforts by the UN secretary general to seek a peaceful solution to the issue of Afghanistan as an urgent need given the current changing situation, and about that organization's programs to assist in the work of the reconstruction and revival of Afghanistan.

The esteemed president of Afghanistan, having assessed the present situation in the country, then explained plans and measures by the Republic of Afghanistan aimed at achieving an inter-Afghan understanding to end war and ensure a nationwide peace in the country. Esteemed Najibullah added that while the Republic of Afghanistan Government has proposed a policy of friendship and economic cooperation with the neighbors instead of military confrontation, Pakistan's Armed Forces, with the participation of that country's commando, artillery, and rocket forces, including militias and tanks and with the collaboration of the armed extremists groups, by violating all the accepted international norms and standards have conducted an open and flagrant aggression on the border city of Khowst.

The esteemed president of Afghanistan added that we, while welcoming the good efforts and intentions of his excellency the UN secretary general and that of his excellency's deputy and envoy toward seeking a peaceful solution to issues related to Afghanistan, state that the recent incidents in Khowst have created a need for the United Nations to give its efforts more (impetus) to prevent further intensification of the situation. It should take immediate and effective measures within the framework of the Geneva accords to prevent the continuation of Pakistan's hostile aggression and intervention, and then put them into practice.

Prime Minister Khaliqyar Addresses Senators

LD0704232291 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1630 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Speech by Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar to the Senate in Kabul; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed senators: First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to you for this meeting. During this meeting I would like to introduce to you my new colleagues who, proposed by the prime minister and approved under decree No. 1633, dated 10 February

1991, of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, were appointed as members of the government and received a vote of confidence from the Wolasi Jerga on 24 March. They are: esteemed candidate Academician Abdol Samad Salim, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; esteemed Muhammad Anwar Arghandwal, deputy prime minister for social affairs; esteemed Gholam Mohayodin Shahbaz, minister of planning; esteemed Muhammad Nazir Shahiri, minister of statistics; and esteemed Wadir Safi, minister of civil aviation and tourism. [passage omitted]

The criteria in appointing these personalities, in accordance with the policy of the government, have been the principles of reconciliation, coalition, service, and sympathy with the people. My government, which fortunately enjoys the support of esteemed President Najibullah, is consistently trying to ensure that the principles of worthiness, sincerity, and service are observed as fundamental criteria in the appointment of administrative cadres at all levels. This is an important principle from the point of view of creating a coalition administration and the future construction of the country.

Esteemed senators, I have been following with interest the proceedings of the parliamentary session. Here, every day, in addition to the most important legislative work that has been carried out, dozens of other complicated matters concerning war and peace and the [word indistinct] of the people's lives are being discussed. The participation of and reporting by members of the government and heads of departments in the work of both houses, which are always carried out in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and a spirit of cooperation, at the same time create good experience for the consolidation of the spirit of democracy and of work in a democratic manner in the country. In my opinion this matter is of great importance; a peaceful and prosperous future cannot be achieved without a combined and peaceful effort, coupled with patience.

Today whoever helps the implementation of democracy in the thinking and action of the Afghans has in fact helped toward the cessation of war, the establishment of peace, and the reconstruction of a prosperous Afghanistan. The parliament has, therefore, great possibilities. Unfortunately, as in the developed countries of the world, war, destruction, and fratricide have taken the place of an ardent parliament and a peaceful political struggle.

Esteemed senators, the present war, which every day sucks the blood of our innocent children and inflicts heavy and long-lasting wounds on the body of our ruined economy, has set the present responsible generation a difficult test. If war does not end quickly, catastrophes will occur with consequences that could make life bitter for several generations to come.

The recent incident in Khowst Province, which took place with the planning and direct intervention of Pakistan, prompts every Afghan once again to think about

the (?aim) of the continuation of this war. Is the merciless murder and killing; the looting and plundering of people's livelihoods; the plundering of public property; the dispersal of women, children, the elderly, and families from their homes and hearths tolerable for the proud Afghans?

What have been considered the so-called achievements of this bloody war are in no way proportional to the heavy losses that both Afghan sides have had in the war and which have been sustained by a single Muslim and Afghan nation. It is only to satisfy the thirst for sedition and interference of the Pakistani militarists and their protectors.

When the lives of children of one nation are involved on opposite sides in a war, victory becomes largely a meaningless word. Here only the victory of peace over war could be of any significance. So far, in no country in the world has a statue or historical monument been put up to those who have achieved a so-called victory in war against their compatriots.

I would like to point out categorically that in the present phase the responsibility of Afghan figures, including political, state, party, and organization leaders, elders, intellectuals, and commanders—without exception, be they in Kabul or Peshawar, Tehran, Europe, or the United States—has become far more serious and critical. Efforts toward a political solution are being made; however, they have not extended to the joint efforts of all Afghan forces on the national level. Some are still laboring under the delusion of military victory. Some only listen to radios for what is going on in the country and who is determining its fate and how. Others have given in to despair. This condition is not worthy of the great name and lofty honor of the Afghans. If all Afghans in support of peace who support peace—with all the opinions, proposals, initiatives, and influence they enjoy—inside and outside the country were to seek to contribute to a political solution, a great political, psychological, and moral force would be created which undoubtedly could put an end to the war.

The time has come to invite all Afghans who are thinking about the present and future of their homeland to break their silence and end their indifference and despair. Whatever they are capable of, they should come forward and help find a way to end the war and bloodshed in the country. They should trust their voices and trust their fellow countrymen.

We should knock at the door of every compatriot until the door opens. This will be the culmination of our Afghan nature and valor, not shame and cowardice. Otherwise the continuation of war will bring devastation, humiliation, and [words indistinct] for all.

Dear senators, the budget and plan for 1370 [year beginning 21 March] have been presented to the Meli Shura for consideration. I will not go into details. I know, however, that discussion is now going on about them in commissions of both chambers. This is understandable.

Everyone wants to see the people's tranquillity fully secured. Regrettably, however, the continuation of the war weakens the pillars of the country's economy year by year and its grave impacts on the life of the people are felt every day.

The government made much effort in preparing the draft of the budget and plan to reduce the pressure of the present complicated economic situation as much as possible on the people, especially the poor and less privileged. Specific measures have been taken to prevent price increases and the rate of inflation as much as possible. Taking into account the rise in unemployment under difficult circumstances of war and the absence of other work opportunities, much reduction in the cadres of ministries and administrations, which was required in principle, has been avoided.

An effort has been made to ensure that the budget deficit be reduced as much as possible and that spending be reduced and the income of the state increased. The drafts that are under your consideration are the product of the hard work of skilled experts in this field. They have been presented with much sympathy and understanding of the present problems of the country in the hope that better times will come.

Allow me to wish that God will grant you greater successes and that the war will cease and the country's peace, prosperity, and progress will be restored. Success comes from God.

Further Reporting on Aftermath of Khowst Attack

Pakistan Said Concealing Deaths

LD0604211391 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] According to reports from informed sources, 10 Pakistani soldiers were killed during attacks on Khowst city by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan based in Khowst. Later, the corpses were transferred to their areas of origin in Gujranwala, Gujrat, and Miran Shah after being recognized in the area (?battlefield) by Pakistani authorities. The report adds that Pakistani security authorities told the people of the area that the corpses were those of victims of the Gulf war to avoid the anger and hatred of the people against the government of that country and to hide direct and active participation of Pakistan's Army in Khowst fighting from world public opinion.

Afghans Allegedly Bomb Khowst

BK0704134791 *Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES*
in English 7 Apr 91 p 10

[Text] Peshawar, April 6—A MIDIA's [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] despatched reporter to Khowst, who has returned to Peshawar yesterday evening, said that the aim of bombing by the

puppet regime of Kabul on Khowst was the destruction of its buildings so that the Mujahidin could not be able to use them.

MIDIA's reporter who has visited all the Khowst city added that its radio station remained safe, while its other construction to some how [as published] received damages. And the Mujahidin were busy in collecting captured arms and ammunitions which were countless.

He visited three ammunition depots in Khowst from where the Mujahidin captured heavy quantity of arms and ammunition.

Based on the credentials of the soldiers and militiamen which MIDIA reporter has brought along with him from Khowst seem that a large number of the Kabul regime forces were settled there. [sentence as published] Therefore Khowst had great importance to the puppet regime.

Regarding the Khowst refugees who are presently inhabited in different refugee camps in Miran Shah, MIDIA's reporter said that they were willing to return to their homes as soon as possible.

Battle Harms Economy

BK0704051091 *Hong Kong AFP in English* 0448 GMT
7 Apr 91

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] Kabul, April 7 (AFP)—The battle for Khowst, which fell to mujahidin resistance fighters a week ago, has worsened the already disastrous state of Afghanistan's war-ravaged economy, Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar said.

After 12 years of war and the harshest winter in 30 years, the cost of fighting for the eastern garrison city has aggravated an economic situation that Afghan officials acknowledge is catastrophic. It has also made living conditions even more miserable for the 12 million people living in Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest countries. Another five million Afghans live in Pakistan and Iran.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr. Khaliqyar said the government was printing less currency in a bid to reduce the budget deficit, which, according to the NAWAII SUBH newspaper, reached 543 million dollars in the fiscal year to March 1991.

"We have taken measures to reduce inflation. We are printing fewer banknotes. Khowst imposed heavy and useless costs," Mr. Khaliqyar said.

Observers here said his task was made more difficult because the ministries of defense, security and foreign affairs are controlled by President Najibullah and fall outside the prime minister's budgetary control.

The fall in the Afghan currency against the U.S. dollar is another clear indication of the worsening economic situation. In March, Kabul devalued the afghani from

531 to 586 to the greenback. But on the free market where merchants conduct foreign trade—the only activity that can keep the economy afloat—the rate is 1,000 afghanis to the dollar, down from 930 afghanis before Khowst fell to the mujahidin on April 1.

The free-market rate only a year ago was about 550 to the dollar. Now a 100-dollar note can often be exchanged for more than a kilo (two pounds) of freshly printed Afghani. In a country whose annual per capita income is 185 dollars, according to the United Nations, price rises resulting from the currency's decline have had dramatic consequences. Ten thousand Afghani, the cost of two cartons of cigarettes, is considered a good monthly salary, one westerner here said.

Afghans are great meat-eaters, but one kilo (2.2 pounds) of mutton costs 1,700 afghanis. In Kabul, flour costs 1,400 afghanis per kilo and potatoes 100 afghanis per kilo. Said one Kabul resident: "Poor people only eat potatoes and bread. Some people eat only bread."

"The main economic problem is the cost of the war," Farid Mazdaq, vice president of the ruling Watan (homeland) party said. More than half the budget is used to finance the war, he said, but refused to elaborate.

The halting of foreign aid—except that from Moscow and New Delhi—has aggravated the situation, he said. A presidential advisor estimated Soviet economic assistance at 500 million dollars, excluding military aid. Various United Nations bodies provide another 66 million dollars.

Officials and diplomats here said the government is practically without sources of revenue. In this mostly agricultural country, much arable land cannot be used as irrigation systems have been destroyed.

Mines for non-ferrous metals and semi-precious stones such as lapis lazuli have either been destroyed or are under mujahidin control.

The traditional business of Afghan merchants, importing goods from around the world for reexport to Pakistan, has been reduced by the closure of main roads into the neighboring country. Only the Salang Highway to the Soviet border remains open and has become a lifeline for the country, allowing in supplies of essential goods such as flour, sugar and fuel.

Afghanistan's total foreign trade has fallen from 1.45 billion dollars in 1985-1986 to about 900 million dollars last year, according to official figures. Officials expect an improvement with the resumption in two to three months of natural gas deliveries to the Soviet Union, which were interrupted for security reasons.

Under an agreement concluded in late March and announced by vice Commerce Minister Ahmad Shahin, Afghanistan will export 1.2 million cubic metres (42 million cubic feet) of gas annually to the Soviet Union,

down from 2.4 million cubic metres (84 million cubic feet) previously. The decrease was attributed to "technical problems."

In Kabul and throughout the region, razed villages and rutted roads bear witness to the devastation of this civil war. An official with an international organization here estimated the cost of rebuilding Afghanistan at "several billion dollars."

"Even in peace, the budget is not sufficient to pay for reconstruction," Mr. Farid Madzaq said. "The longer the war lasts, the more foreign aid will be needed for reconstruction," he added.

Officers' 'Coups' Attempt Described

BK0604145891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1447 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 6 (AFP)—An Afghan resistance leader was quoted here Saturday as saying that the Kabul regime had arrested 40 senior military officers after an attempted coup following the guerrilla capture of Khowst. This was the "fourth attempt to topple President Najibullah in the past four months," claimed Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, chief of the fundamentalist mujahidin faction Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, in an interview with the newspaper JANG.

Mr. Hekmatyar was also quoted as saying that some senior officials of the Afghan regime had made indirect contacts with the mujahidin. "The regime is facing a very difficult situation," Mr. Hekmatyar said, adding that it was bound to "fall within a year."

The garrison town of Khowst, located 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the Pakistani border, was captured by the mujahidin March 31 after more than two weeks of fighting. Mr. Hekmatyar said his fighters had participated in the attack on Khowst alongside other factions.

(In Kabul, a Foreign Ministry spokesman denied as "baseless" the reports from Islamabad of a plot to overthrow Mr. Najibullah. The spokesman said the reports were "typical propaganda" as used by Pakistan in the past.

(Meanwhile, an estimated 30,000 people marched from downtown Kabul to the Pakistan Embassy chanting slogans against alleged Pakistani participation in the mujahidin seizure of Khowst.

(The Afghan Foreign Office in the meantime summoned Pakistan's charge d'affaires Fida Yunis to present him a letter asking Islamabad to stop alleged looting and destruction of civilian property in Khowst, officials said.)

(General Nabi Azimi, deputy defence minister and military commander for Kabul Province, who was among the 40 military officers claimed to have been arrested in connection with the alleged plot, scoffed at the report. In

an interview with AFP, Gen. Azimi reaffirmed his loyalty to Mr. Najibullah and said the president "is as strong as ever."

(The general, who appeared calm in his garrison office in Kabul, pointed out that life in the capital was normal. No heightened state of alert or unusual tension was seen in the streets of Kabul, and since the fall of Khowst activity has seemed normal in government offices and security-related establishments.)

Kabul Demonstration Protests Attack

LD0604182191 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Kabul, 6 Apr (BAKHTAR)—Today a large march was held by thousands of Kabul citizens with the participation of leaders of the Peace Front and heads and members of political and social organizations in protest against attacks on Khowst Province by Pakistan's military forces and warmongering extremists.

The marchers held a meeting in front of Pakistan's Embassy. Speakers strongly condemned the aggressive actions by regular units of Pakistan's Army which were carried out in Khowst Province against the UN Charter and norms and the provisions of the Geneva accords. They pointed out that responsibility for the grave consequences resulting from the continuation of Pakistan's aggression and intervention against Afghanistan's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty will rest on Pakistan.

At the beginning of the meeting, a few verses were read from the Holy Koran by Qari Fakhar. Then, Mawlawi Muhammad Gul Gulbahari, deputy head of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan; Mawlawi Nasrullah Hanafi, head of the Peace Front of the Republic of Afghanistan; Muhammad Wali, head of the Homeland Party Council of Kabul city; Muhammad Qasem [name indistinct], deputy head of the Peace Front; and Senator Mawlawi Ruwhullah Abed in their speeches strongly condemned the attacks on Khowst and the killing of women, children, and elderly people in Khowst Province.

The meeting ended with a prayer read by Shaykh Muhammad Ewaz Sadeqi, deputy Islamic affairs and endowment minister for an end to the war and the defeat of Pakistan's aggressive plans. During the march, the marchers shouted slogans in support of the defense of the homeland, independence, and national sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan and implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

Rebels Eye Lowgar as Next Target

BK0604151091 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] Khowst, April 5—After victory at Khowst front, the Mujahidin are planning the strategy of mobilising their forces in Lowgar province, south of Kabul.

The Agency Afghan Press team quoting the Mujahidin's military council reported from Khowst that the leaders of the Afghan resistance have decided to start military operations with the consultation of commanders Shura [consultative council] in Lowgar province.

In Lowgar, the Mujahidin were already active prior to Khowst campaign and they were gaining control over Mohammad Agha and other places.

The Afghan resistance and the Mujahidin's Shura of the area believe that the strategy of putting up pressure on Pol-e Alam, headquarter of Lowgar province, will definitely produce results. They maintain that fall of Pol-e Alam, capital of Paktia province, will lead to fall of Gardeyz.

Bangladesh

President Addresses Parliament, Offers To Resign

BK0504163291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The first session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] began in Dhaka this morning. The house elected Abdur Rahman Biswas as the new speaker and Sheikh Razzaq Ali deputy speaker from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party—BNP. The election of speaker and deputy speaker was made through division as demanded by the opposition. [passage omitted]

Addressing the afternoon session, the acting president, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, told the house now that the election process is over with the opening of the Jatiya Sangsad and a new cabinet already formed, it is essential for him to be relieved at the earliest of his responsibilities as president. Giving reasons of his earlier relinquishment, the acting president said the recently formed cabinet is the party one but he is a neutral interim president. It is natural that the cabinet will consider issues from its party angles and he will do it from neutral angles, and as such a conflict of opinions is likely to emerge. The constitutional problem regarding his reversion, he said, is that there is no one to whom he can submit his resignation. The responsibility and tenure of the acting president will terminate as soon as an elected president assumes office. Under the presidential system, election to the presidency will have to take place between April 23d and October 22d this year. In case of reversion to the parliamentary system, everything regarding the changeover may be completed within the next one and half months and it is for the parliament to decide on the form of the government. Circumstances under which the speaker can assume the responsibility of the acting president under Article 55-2 of the Constitution do not exist at present. Therefore, he will request parliament to add a transitional and temporary provision to Part-IV of the Constitution to enable the speaker to take over from him.

Referring to the joint declaration of the three alliances for the transfer of power to a sovereign parliament, the acting president said it has sufficient political significance but no constitutional validity. The three alliances will have to arrive at a decision on the issue promptly through mutual consultations. He pointed out that differences of opinion and modes of action are natural in a democracy but sharp differences on the basic issues render the democracy nonfunctional.

Referring to various problems facing the country, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said the present government will have to take measures for checking population explosion and removing poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment. To improve the country's balance of trade position, he called for restricting imports to only items used in industries and avoiding the import of luxury goods.

The country's total foreign loan now stands at 40,000 crore taka and the annual interest payable on the loan is 500 crore taka. Under the circumstances, expenditure will have to be reduced and austerity practised in all sectors to help save the country.

Our parliamentary representative says the inaugural session was full of enthusiasm and all the visitors galleries were jam packed. The distinguished guests who were present included the chiefs of three services, foreign diplomats, and high officials. The house will again meet at 1100 on Sunday morning.

First Parliament Session's Proceedings Noted

BK0504142891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The first session of the fifth parliament began in Dhaka in Bangladesh Friday morning with the outgoing speaker, Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, in the chair. The house elected Abdur Rahman Biswas the new speaker and Sheikh Razzaq Ali deputy speaker from the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, BNP. The election was made through division as demanded by the opposition. There were 187 votes in favor and 97 against for both the speaker and deputy speaker. The Jamaat-i-Islami, MDP [Muslim Democratic Party], JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal], Workers Party, and Islami Oikya Jot, and independents voted in favor along with BNP, while Jatiya Party and Ganotantrik Party abstained. The Awami League candidate for speaker was Salauddin Yusuf and for deputy speaker, Asadduzaman. Earlier, the house was adjourned twice in a bid to come to a consensus on the election of speaker and deputy speaker. After election, the outgoing speaker congratulated the newly-elected speaker and deputy speaker and thanked the members of the house. He expressed the hope that they will make every effort to uphold the democratic tradition in the country. The house was then adjourned for the swearing in of the new speaker and deputy speaker by the acting president at his Sangsad [parliament] chamber.

The house resumed its session under the chairmanship of the new speaker, Abdur Rahman Biswas. The speaker

announced a five-member panel of chairmen who will conduct the business of the house in the absence of speaker and deputy speaker. They are Haroonur Rashid, Dr. Sirajul Haq, Abdur Rab Chowdhury, Salauddin Yusuf, and Maulana Abdus Subhan. The house then made an obituary reference condoling the death of 29 eminent parliamentarians, politicians, artistes, litterateurs, and educationists at home and abroad who passed away after the budget session of the previous parliament. The house also made a separate obituary reference condoling the death of 106 people, including a large number of political leaders and workers, and students, who made supreme sacrifices during the nine years of anti-autocracy movement for the establishment of democracy in the country. Munajat [prayer] was offered in the house for the salvation of the departed souls.

Pakistani Special Envoy Meets Khaleda Zia 7 Apr

BK0704161691 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said she hopes the relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan would grow (?from) strength to strength in the coming days. Begum Zia was talking to the special envoy of Pakistan, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, at the Parliament office today. Mr. Bijarani, who is also the railway minister of the country arrived in Dhaka last night, as the head of the five-member delegation. The envoy handed over to Begum Khaleda Zia a personal message from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan. The special envoy extended an invitation to Begum Khaleda Zia on behalf of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to visit Pakistan. Begum Zia accepted the invitation.

During the meeting, the envoy underscored the need for more exchange of visits at ministerial and other levels between the two countries. The prime minister took up the issue of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis and sharing of assets between the two countries. The envoy said the issues are under consideration and hoped these would be settled soon.

Home Ministry Allocated to Khaleda Zia

BK0604160491 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The acting president has allocated the ministry of home affairs to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. This was officially announced in Dhaka today.

Zia Urges Elimination of Smuggling, Corruption

BK0604160891 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has called for eliminating smuggling and corruption from the society. These, she said, are eating into the vitals of the national economy and destroying the industrial base. She was addressing high officials of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions at Uttara Gana Bhaban in Natore today.

The government, she said, is determined to eradicate smuggling and corruption from the country and shall not spare anybody however strong and influential he might be in the effort to stamp out smuggling and corruption. She urged the officials to be courageous in implementing anti-smuggling measures and discharge their duties with sincerity and honesty. She emphasized that each and every official has to be accountable and must function with credibility.

Dwelling on the law and order situation in the country, the prime minister stressed the need for checking terrorism and recovering unauthorized arms and ammunition. On economic development, she said proper utilization of local resources is essential for speedy industrialization to help lessen the country's dependence on foreign aid.

India

Delhi Radio Reports Border Talks With Pakistan

Talks Begin

BK0504152491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] India and Pakistan today began their two-day official level talks on easing tension on the borders and to resolve the bilateral issues. The two sides were led by the foreign secretaries, Mr. Muchkund Dubey and his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Shaharyar Khan. They are reported to have approved the two draft agreements on advance notification of military exercises and prevention of airspace violations by military aircraft. Military delegations of the two countries have already reached a consensus on the technical aspect of the agreements.

Agreements on Airspace, Exercises

BK0604094891 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] India and Pakistan have signed two agreements on prevention of airspace violation by military aircraft and advance notification of military exercises and troop movements. The agreements were signed in New Delhi today by the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, and his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Shaharyar Khan. The two countries began talks at the foreign secretaries-level yesterday on easing tension on the borders and to resolve bilateral issues. The talks will continue till tomorrow. The agreement on prevention of airspace violation also provides for permission for overflights and landing facilities to military aircraft in each other's country. The technical aspects of the agreements were finalized by military experts of two countries who met in New Delhi earlier this week.

Prime Minister Receives Pakistani

BK0604160691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] India and Pakistan have signed two agreements on prevention of airspace violation by military aircraft and advance notification of military exercises and troop movements. The agreements were signed in New Delhi today by the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, and his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Shaharyar Khan. The agreement on prevention of airspace violation also provides for permission for overflights and landing facilities to military aircraft of each other's country. The technical aspects of the agreements were finalized by military experts of the two countries who met in New Delhi earlier this week.

The Pakistan foreign secretary later called on the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. He conveyed a message from the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, about Islamabad's continued interest in improving relations with India.

Shekhar Praises Improving Ties

BK0804053891 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The Janata Dal-S leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has called for a national consensus and mutual understanding for tackling various problems facing the country. Addressing a public rally in Bombay, he said that the fruits of development should reach all sections equally. He criticized both the Janata Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party for unleashing divisive forces.

Referring to the Congress-I claim that it alone could provide stability in the country, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that the party could not do it even after winning over 400 seats in the 1984 elections.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that a new atmosphere of understanding is developing in India's relations with its neighboring countries. He referred to the foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan in this connection. He said in Nepal and Bangladesh, democracy has been ushered in and India will cooperate with these countries as a neighbor. He affirmed that New Delhi will not bow to any foreign power nor dictate terms to any small country.

Siachen Talks Agreement Reached

BK0704094091 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] India and Pakistan have agreed in principle on the resumption of dialogue on Siachen. The foreign secretaries of the two countries, who concluded their three-day talks in New Delhi, agreed on holding the dialogue at an appropriate time. The two countries are also to hold talks on several bilateral matters in July or August this year. These relate to Tulbul navigation project and Wular Barrage and delimitation of the boundary in Sir

Creek area. The India-Pakistan committee to combat drug trafficking and smuggling is also to meet in July.

A joint statement issued today says the Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, and his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, during their talks covered the entire range of bilateral issues and exchanged views on international issues of mutual interests. They signed two agreements aimed at easing tension on the borders. These relate to providing advance notice on military exercises and troop movements and prevention of airspace violation by military aircraft. The foreign secretaries expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the meeting of military experts of the two countries held earlier this week.

This was the fourth round of talks between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan. The next round of discussions are to be held in Islamabad toward the end of August or September this year. The Pakistani foreign secretary also called on the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, during his visit.

No Tolerance for Border Threats

*BK0604031391 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said that India will not tolerate any threat from outside or antinational activities by terrorists on the India-Pakistan border. Addressing the BSF [Border Security Force] jawans [soldiers] at Jodhpur, Rajasthan, yesterday, he said the country will retaliate to any such move with all its might. Lauding the role of the BSF at borders, the prime minister said its jawans have played the twin role of police and the army at the border.

Later talking to newsmen, Mr. Chandra Shekhar reiterated that despite opposition from several political parties of holding elections in Punjab, he still favors a popular government there in the interest of the people.

Commentary Views Bilateral Talks

*BK0604115291 Delhi General Overseas Service
in English 1010 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[P.L. Sharma commentary]

[Text] Happily, Indian and Pakistani military commanders in their three-day deliberations have arrived at an agreement for advance notification of military exercises and prevention of airspace violations by military aircraft. Hopefully, the agreement, which is being formally signed at a secretary-level meeting between the two countries in New Delhi, will go a long way in reducing tension. In two earlier foreign secretary-level meetings in New Delhi and Islamabad, India had put forward a five-point action plan for dissociating Pakistan from acts of subversion and terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab. The suggestions were made as concrete steps indicative of Pakistan's bonafide intentions to improve bilateral relations with India. [sentence as heard]

In fact, any meaningful progress in the relations between the two countries will depend on stoppage of Pakistan's official promotion of terrorist activity across the border, evidence regarding which has been many a time shown up to be massive and concrete. Even the United States has asked Pakistan to do everything possible to prevent any military or terrorist support from its soil for the militants in Kashmir. Such support is a violation of the UN Charter and makes a political settlement more difficult. The U.S. of late has been directing Pakistan to sort out whatever problem it has with India by sitting across the table in spirit of Simla accord. The low-key war that Pakistan has been pursuing can in no way help Pakistan. It may, on the other side, lead to tension. Pakistan in its dealing with India speaks with two voices, as is obvious even from the two statements of its Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif—one immediately after his informal meeting with India's Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar at Male and another just a day later in an interview to an Indian journalist—in which he reiterated Pakistan's emotional involvement with Kashmir and his government's determination to continue extending moral and political support to Kashmiris. In real terms, it means that there will be no letup in the training and supply of arms to the militants in Kashmir or, for that matter, to terrorists in Punjab.

In the circumstances, one has to take the statement of the visiting Pakistani foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, for a meaningful and positive dialogue with a pinch of salt. On one side, Pakistan tells the world that Pakistan is keen to improve relations with India; on the other, a simultaneous concerted attempt is made by Pakistan delegates in the UN to raise the Kashmir issue on the question of self-determination for the Kashmiris and on human rights, leading to sharp clashes with the Indian representatives.

Last year, the relation between the two countries had touched an all-time low and India had to formally ask Pakistan to stop sabotaging New Delhi's attempts at improving relations between the two countries and desist from interfering in its internal affairs and look into its own tarnished human rights record in Sindh and Balochistan. In another clash at the UN, the Indian representative had to remind Pakistan that its advocacy of self-determination in Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India, was a recipe for disintegration and disorder and could create problems for Pakistan itself. India's relations with its neighbors have been generally good except with Pakistan, which has done everything short of going to war to destabilize the situation in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir to achieve its objective.

The Indo-Pakistan talks which had identified for discussion the three problems of the demarcation of bilateral boundary over Sir Creek area, the Wular Barrage issue, and the question of visas and the related consular exchanges will be successful if only Pakistan does heart-searching for sincere efforts to ease tension and bring

amity between the two countries for the future bilateral cooperation and economic development.

President's Rule Dissolves Assembly in Haryana

*BK0604094691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0930 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[Text] Haryana has been brought under president's rule. The state assembly has been dissolved. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, issued a proclamation to this effect in New Delhi today. The Union Cabinet had yesterday accepted the Haryana governor Mr. Dhanik Lal Mandal's recommendation for imposition of central rule in the state and advised the president accordingly. The governor's recommendation followed the disqualification of three Janata Dal-S MLA's [members of Legislative Assembly] and the refusal of the chief minister, Mr. Chautala, to prove his majority on the floor of the house.

Former Haryana Chief, Officials Join Congress-I

*BK0604161691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[Text] The former Haryana chief minister and Janata Dal leader, Mr. Banarsi Das Gupta, and two members of the dissolved Lok Sabha—Mr. Vishwendra Singh and Mr. Manavendra Singh—today joined the Congress-I.

A Congress-I member of the dissolved Lok Sabha, Mr. Banwarilal Purohit, today joined the Bharatiya Janata Party. Mr. Purohit had resigned from the Congress-I recently on what he called ideological grounds.

Concern Expressed at Fighting in Afghanistan

*BK0604033791 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[Text] India has expressed concern over the renewed fighting in Afghanistan involving external elements. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that India has always believed that military operations are not in accordance with the Geneva accords and the UN Security Council resolutions. He said New Delhi hopes that these developments will not cause a setback to the process of finding a political solution to the Afghan problem.

Shekhar Says No Need To Panic About Economy

*BK0704151691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 7 Apr 91*

[Text] The prime minister says that there is no need for panic on the economic front. But he pointed out that political instability has contributed to economic difficulty. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the situation is not as hopeless as some tried to project it. Addressing the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta today, the prime minister cautioned that a country of India's size cannot be bailed out by foreign help. Mr. Chandra

Shekhar said India cannot squander its resources and get bankrupt in the name of liberalization.

Delhi Radio Reports on Continuing Violence

14 Killed in Punjab

*BK0504154891 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Text] In Punjab, five militants and a police assistant sub-inspector are among the 14 persons killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, two militants each were killed in Bikhiwind and Lapoke area and one in Taran Tarn area of Amritsar District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the site of the encounters. In Hoshiarpur District two persons were killed in a powerful bomb blast near a wine shop in Mukeria town this morning. The spokesman said the militants kidnapped the son of a police inspector of Sadar police station, Ludhiana, from a local college today.

3 Killed in Kashmir

*BK0504160291 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Text] In Kashmir valley, three persons, including two militants, have been killed in violence during the last 24 hours. The security forces have arrested 20 subversives in different parts of the valley. According to an official press release, a Pakistan-trained militant was killed in an encounter with security forces in Badgam District yesterday. Huge quantity of arms and ammunition which includes three AK-56 rifles, two AK-47 rifles and some other ammunition and explosive material were also recovered.

9 Killed in Madhya Pradesh

*BK0604125891 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, nine persons, including seven children, were killed and four injured in an explosion in a house at Sugandh Village, about 45 km from Bhind. The injured have been admitted to a hospital in Gwalior.

Kashmir Militants Allegedly Fire Rockets

*BK0704134191 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 7 Apr 91 p 10*

[Text] Muzaffarabad, April 6—The freedom fighters continued launching rocket attacks on the Indian army positions, report reaching here from Occupied Srinagar said.

The freedom fighters rocketed Indian army posts and an army unit in Srinagar Downtown. The police sources said AK-47 rifles and light machine-guns were also used.

They fired rockets on any army unit in Badami Bagh and hurled grenades on India army and patrol units.

Meanwhile, the freedom fighters also rocketed an army picket set up in a cinema house in Anantnag. However, no casualty was reported so far.

Iran

Khamene'i Friday Prayers View Palestine, Iraq

*LD0504160691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1130 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 5 April—recorded]

[Text] Today, in the second sermon, we consider two important issues in the world of Islam which relate to the Muslim peoples. The first issue is the old problem, the old wound, of Palestine that was started by the Zionists and those dependent on arrogance. The wound on the body, the system, of Islam, daily grows deeper at the hands of world arrogance. Recent events in the Persian Gulf led the world of Islam to neglect events of Palestine for a short time. This encouraged the Zionists to use the opportunity to increase pressure on the people of Palestine.

First, the flood of immigration of aliens towards the holy Islamic land of Palestine started. Islamic governments and peoples were caught unaware. Even if they were not, many governments may not have felt a sense of duty. That is the great calamity. Secondly, these true struggles, these oppressed Muslims in their homes, those that have created the Palestinian intifadah during the last three years, have been placed in the most difficult circumstances. Not a day or night goes by without a blow being struck to the body of the Islamic community via the pressure inflicted upon these oppressed Muslims.

Of course, the struggle continues. The important point is this: the world of Islam must not neglect the Palestinian problem. Let not people forget the issue of Palestine. Do not set it aside. The Americans, arrogance and the supporters of the Zionists have always wanted to impose this forgetfulness on the Muslims. You must not allow this. The people of Islam must not allow it. The people of Iran must not allow it. Next week is Jerusalem Day, that day reminds us of one of the initiatives of our dearly departed great imam. Honor that day, the world of Islam must honor that day. Let not the Muslim masses allow certain treacherous governments to melt Palestine bit by bit, and moment by moment, in the calm atmosphere and false silence that they have created and forget the issue. The treachery of those governments that made a deal with the usurper regime and sacrificed the Palestinians must not be forgotten. This must not be forgotten. This is not a small issue. For over forty years the people of Islam have talked of Palestine. Muslims, Islamic thinkers, authors and politicians have said this a thousand times, and thousands of people have been martyred in this path. Can we put part of the body of Islam in the hands of the enemies like this, so they can occupy and throw a people out of their homes? Can this happen? Will Islam allow this? Will Islamic peoples

allow this? The expecting and demanding climate for Palestine must increase everyday. Inside Palestine, this holy flame must become brighter everyday. Those youth, those men and women, those devotees that are struggling against the usurper regime inside Palestine must know that the main point is exactly where they are. That is the place where the enemy will be defeated. Organizations that sit behind the negotiating table outside the borders of Palestine or show off from different platforms in the name of Palestine will not solve the problem. The support of the world of Islam from the outside and the real sensitive struggle of the people of Palestine inside—these two factors will solve the problem; they will smash the head of the enemies of Palestine against stones.

Honor Jerusalem Day. Consider it a great day. Of course world propaganda does not reflect this. Let it! Those who are in the Palestine jails have told us that they take courage and strength from your slogans, your presence, and your clenched fists—which indicate your sincere intent and will—and so they resist. He who is behind the walls of a Palestine jail must not feel abandoned in order to resist. Those men and women who are being attacked by the Zionist riff-raff in the streets of Beyt al Moqaddas [Jerusalem], the Gaza Strip and other cities of occupied Palestine must feel that you are behind them in order to resist. Of course the governments, also, have their duties. The Islamic Republic's government also has its duties which it carries out and will continue to do so. The national, general, and popular issue has its own particular role which must be carried out in its own place.

The second issue is the Iraqi problem. Iraq's situation is an exceptional one, my brothers and sisters. When the ringleaders of the Iraqi regime were confronting America, even though we faulted and ridiculed their very motives, we helped them. We kept their borders secure—those they have with us. The threat from us was completely ended. They sent their planes over here. They asked us for provisions and food aid. Our nation assisted them to a great extent. The nation itself sent provisions. Now the ingrates, as expected, use those same aids for propaganda. One really cannot expect anything else but this from them.

Now the issue is different. The other issue is finished. Unfortunately, the Iraqi regime imposed unprecedented misery on the Iraqi nation. It surrendered to the enemy in the most humiliating and degrading manner, which I believe to be unprecedented in Iraqi history. That is my belief. Now, as you know, the American, French, and British forces have made themselves comfortable in Iraqi territory and the violent, ruthless and anti-popular and naturally subservient and weak regime does not bat an eyelid that the multinational forces are stationed behind the al-Basrah wall on the one hand and the walls of al-Nasiriyah on the other. It has fallen on its own nation. The issue is that of a regime waging war against its own nation. Well, we have seen the likes of this many times in the world. We saw what happened last year in

East Europe. How the ill-omened Pahlavi regime struggled against you people for a time! But what is happening now in Iraq is, for me, without precedent.

Tanks come into the streets, and as it is told, indiscriminately shoot the people with machineguns and multiple rocket-launchers. It does not matter whether they are men or women, or what they do. Whether they have made any protest or not. This does not matter to them. It is said that they have been raining poisonous gas and chemical bombs on their people from the helicopters at their disposal. We have seen similar things in Halabcheh before. But now the scope is wider. And the regime resorts to any means. It insults the holy sites. The shrine of Amīr al-Mo'menīn, the dome of Imam Hoseyn, and of Abol Fadl, peace be upon them—and maybe the rest of the holy sites—are threatened and hit; as it has been related. There is no accurate information about the details of what has happened within (the holy sites). But it is clear what they are doing. The Iraqi situation is most peculiar.

I make two or three statements. One is addressed to the leaders of the Ba'thist regime. One thing they must realize. Such a resistance will never end with the victory of a regime which is confronting the whole of its nation. That is, whenever a regime confronts its nation, the one which is victorious for the short or medium term is the people and the one which is defeated is the anti-popular regime.

They should harbor no doubts as to the fact that the greater they increase and sustain the pressure, the greater becomes the scale of their crime, and the heavier the scale of their sin. There is no doubt. The chiefs and the officials of the army must also know that by confronting the Iraqi People today, they will be making their future dark and gloomy. The army which joins the people becomes honorable, and the one confronting the nation will be crushed. It will be annihilated. If they army leaders stand, but the bulk of the army joins the people, then the bulk of the army will survive and become honorable, while the leaders of that army will be punished as the nation takes its revenge. Similar experiences have been witnessed by all. We have also experienced them. Both the Iraqi forces and the Iraqi nation know this. They should know that their fight against the people will be to no avail. They must find out their people's wish and act accordingly. If the people say you must leave, then they must do so. If the people's wish is that they should not remain in power, then they should not. The Iraqi leaders have no other choice, starting from Saddam Husayn and on to all those around him. The ones who display greater resistance will have to endure greater affliction in this world and in the hereafter. That is inevitable.

I have one word to say to the Iraqi nation. The Iraqi nation must know that these are very sensitive times. If they stand firm they will achieve honor and glory. Of course, it will be quite difficult. It requires sacrifice, as without sacrifice nothing will bear fruit. If they think

that achieving glory, honor, freedom and a comfortable life is as easy as putting a morsel of food in someone's mouth, they are mistaken. They must endure hardship, though it will be short-term and temporary, and it will end. But if the Iraqi nation gives in, then this very Iraqi regime will beat the hell out of them. It will resort to such atrocities against which its past atrocities—which in their kind were also unprecedented—will pale. If this regime gains control over its people, then, God forbid, it will take terrible revenge on its people. The Iraqi nation must be aware of this. The Iraqi nation must continue this path, which it has chosen, and now that it has started it, it must finish the job. They must place their trust in God, and beseech the Almighty for support. They must also place sacrifice in their plan of action. The Almighty will grant them success.

I have another word to say to, you dear people of our country. Witness the scale of spite and malice harbored by the world of arrogance against Islam, the awakened Muslim nation and the Islamic movement, and you can see this in the Iraqi situation. This Saddam Husayn, who is now confronting his nation, is that very same Saddam Husayn against whom, until two months ago, the entire Western media were waging such a propaganda campaign, presenting an extremely ruthless picture of him to the extent that their nations began to wonder how they had cooperated with such a person. Now that this Saddam Husayn has surrendered to them and is confronting his own nation, they have ended all such rhetoric. The world propaganda machines, those newspapers and those news agencies are all controlled by the arrogance, they are in the hands of America, the Zionists and the big capitalists. They are not independent. A piece of news transmitted on various channels, which is then repeated by various news agencies, is no coincidence. It is calculated. They look to find where their news is disseminated and do so wherever it suits their interests. Now, the issue of the Iraqi nation, the Islamic movement of the Iraqi people, the Iraqi Muslim factions, this massacre of the people in al-Najaf, Karbala', al-Basrah, the northern and the other cities, have all been concealed under a dark cloud of propaganda. That portrayal of the ruthless face has ended. Now, looking at global propaganda, we see how its tone regarding the Ba'thist regime in Iraq has become similar to that of their propaganda of the war period, that is to say, the general inclination of the arrogance's propaganda is again partial in favor of Iraq.

Now, thousands of refugees—as was reported, over one million—are currently in the Iraqi countryside heading for Iran and other places. They said one and a half million. From two days ago, from Tuesday night, tens of thousands of them crossed our border. Our organizations are helping them, taking food to them. The Red Crescent, the Interior Ministry, different organizations, the Guard, the Armed Forces, all of them are helping in one way or other.

They are hiding the facts under the cover of nonacknowledgement in their propaganda. If one Iraqi official says

one false, non-related sentence opposing the Islamic Republic, they increase it and spread it. This is world propaganda. Get to know the world of arrogance, though you already easily recognized it. The heart of world arrogance will not reconcile itself with Islam, revolutionary Islam, militant Islam and glory-seeking Islam. Until a Muslim is a Muslim, they will hate him.

Arabic Sermon Encourages Iraqi Revolt

NC0504204791 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1809 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Friday prayers sermon in Arabic delivered by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 5 April—recorded]

[Text] [Khamene'i, speaking in progress] The month of Ramadan also opens the door to Islamic values and prayers. It reveals to us the meanings of patience, Islamic jihad, steadfastness, self-restraint, and struggle against the enemies. We hope that Muslims everywhere will be successful in behaving according to the rules of this month and in learning the lessons from it so that God Almighty's grace will be given to them and they can vanquish their enemies.

There are two important issues that must be discussed here. The first one is that of Holy Jerusalem, the oppressed Palestinian people, and this people's blessed intifadah inside the occupied territories. We are on the eve of Jerusalem Day, which falls on the last Friday of Ramadan. This occasion forces us to stress the need for all Muslims to support the intifadah and the need for officials and influential people in all countries to open the way for their people to celebrate International Jerusalem Day freely.

World arrogance is focusing on removing the Palestinian issue from the limelight and on creating an appropriate background for accepting the usurping Zionist presence, for isolating the word of justice declared by the oppressed Palestinian people and their usurped rights from the lives of Muslims, and for stifling it with the clamor about political talks and perfidious bargaining. But this objective of arrogance will never be achieved. The determination and zeal of the Palestinian mujahidin and the zealous Muslims will never allow this to happen. We stress that if the plot succeeds, a great issue will be forgotten, and the Palestinian people will remain deprived and oppressed—may God forbid. Then the Islamic world must prepare for a life of humiliation, submission, and complete annihilation. God Almighty, His prophets, and the faithful do not accept this.

The important thing is that the principal and only important opportunity for fulfilling the hope lies in escalating the struggle in the usurped territories, maintaining and entrenching this struggle, and spreading it daily. This requires the support of the Muslims; otherwise, any lapse means suffering great and heavy losses and sacrificing the good Muslims of Palestine.

We are witnessing today an atmosphere of silence and negligence created by the recent events in the Persian Gulf and the policies of the Iraqi regime in the region. This has opened the way for the continued influx of alien emigrants into the lands of Palestine and the escalation of the tragic massacres against the Muslim Palestinian people. As we said, all of this was caused by the disregard for the Palestinian issue following the Iraqi regime's actions in the Persian Gulf which opened the way for these tragedies. The resounding cries of Muslims against the Zionist regime and the real and effective support for the strugglers inside Palestine must destroy the wall of negligence and strengthen the arms of these strugglers, God willing.

The other issue is one that is difficult to find another issue more bitter, painful, and sorrowful than it is. It is the issue of the Muslim Iraqi people. The ruling Ba'thist regime, through its ignorant and expansionist aggression against Kuwait and by giving the opportunity to criminal America and its allies to enter the region, has subjected Iraq and its people to the most cruel and painful disturbances and tragedies, poured destruction and devastation on the cities, and caused the death of many of their sons. It did this for a futile and losing venture, and at the end it surrendered with utter humiliation and shame to the conditions of the United States and its allies. It allowed the feet of U.S., English, and French troops to tread a part of the Islamic Iraqi territory.

All of this was not sufficient for this Ba'thist regime, which then proceeded to strike a second blow at its people and country even more cruel, bitter, and painful than the previous ones.

The various ethnic groups of the Iraqi people in the north and south are facing genocide by the regime's elements who demolish homes over their owners' heads, use helicopters to pour the fire of destructive weapons and poisonous gases on cities, and burn the sanctity of sites that even the enemies of Islam did not dare to violate.

These holy sites, according to reliable reports, are facing desecration and devastation and the people inside them are facing tragic death. At the same time, artillery and tank fire is directed at their chaste premises and domes, although they are the sites where prayers are answered, where the faithful worship, and where divine mercy alights.

The Ba'thist troops have driven a large part of the Iraqi people from their homes to the deserts and the mountains. The floods of the expelled, displaced people have made their way to Iran and some other neighboring countries.

It might not be possible to find anything similar to these tragedies. Rarely do you find anything parallel to these tragedies in the history of state repression of nations.

It is truly strange to find that the United States and its Western allies, who waged a ferocious war against

Saddam in order to control the oil resources, are now agreeing with Saddam on mutual interests. Covert and overt cooperation is being carried out between them. This happened after they saw the Islamic popular uprising escalating. Yes, we are now seeing those, who last year extended all possible media, political, and, indeed, sometimes financial assistance to the European nations who had been suffering under socialist governments to rise and get rid of their regimes—we see them today forgetting all their glittering slogans before the uprising of the Muslim people. In their media and political actions they are ignoring the genocide of an entire people and the crushing of many of their human rights.

In this attitude lies a moral for the Muslims. It reveals to them numerous facts and teaches them an important lesson, namely that global arrogance will not be reconciled with the living, vigilant Islam and that all those humanitarian slogans that profess to defend the rights of nations are mere deception and a form of cunning.

Now it is the Iraqi people's turn to experience these facts on Iraqi territory, and the nations will thus recognize the true path of struggle they must follow. Our wronged Iranian people learned this during the past 12 years. Based on the foregoing, we have two messages, one addressed to the Iraqi people and the other addressed to the leaders of the Ba'thist regime.

As for the Iraqi people, we tell them that they should know that the path they have embarked upon is a blessed one, which promotes Islamic pride, and that they should take care themselves to attain their rights and wrest them from this tyrannical regime, or else they will have to languish under the previous bitter yoke for many years and surrender to a state whose acts are prompted by individual interests and the love of power and by personal, partisan intentions and aims. The people's opinion or even their interests have no value in decision-making.

We have seen this love of power lead the people into an eight-year war against a fraternal people, into the occupation of Kuwait, and into humiliation by allowing their honor to be trampled under the boots of the American and European invaders and to be forced to pay a great amount in reparations. All this was the result of selfish and reckless behavior.

Therefore, this uprising is a great humanitarian Islamic movement and the people have only two paths to follow. The first is the path of pride and dignity, that is, continuing the jihad until victory. When the people rise, victory will not be far off, and no regime, even if it is as oppressive as the Iraqi regime, will be able to conquer its people and wipe them out of existence. The second is to retreat and surrender. This means paying a great price and wiping out the most splendid and zealous men and women among the Iraqi youth and people in addition to inviting God's future wrath.

Despite its apparent strength and power, the Iraqi regime is hollow and lacks inner cohesion. Therefore, your heroic determination will break its resistance.

As for the Ba'thist regime, we say that the heads of this regime, particularly the military leaders, must know very well that the river of blood that was spilled and flows between them and their people makes it impossible for them to remain in power. They cannot smother the revolution of an alert people with the sounds of bullets. We tell them: You have before you the events of the Iranian Islamic revolution and other revolutions. Think of them in order to understand this fact and learn its moral. The correct path is to open the way for people's will, hand power to them, and surrender to them. Unlike surrendering to America and its allies, surrendering to the people will not be shameful for you.

Army elements must join the people's forces or at least try to leave the arena. Junior officers, NCO's, and soldiers, must abandon their barracks and join the people. This is the only way to gain God's blessings. This action will naturally have its positive effect on the conditions of the Iraqi Army in the long run.

In conclusion, I earnestly pray God the almighty to grant us every success in understanding our duties and carrying them out. And say: "Work righteousness, soon will God observe your work, and his apostles, and the believers. The end is best for the righteous. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. By the token of time through the ages, verily man is in loss, except such as have faith and do righteous deeds and join together in the mutual teaching of truth, and of patience and constancy. [Koranic verses]

Khamene'i Orders Help for Iraqi Refugees

*LD0504212391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Text] In the wake of the movement of hundreds of thousands of Muslims and innocent people of Iraq toward the Iranian borders, the following statement was issued by the esteemed leader's bureau on Friday night:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During the past few days hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqi Muslims have either arrived in the Islamic homeland or are facing hunger and cold, bewildered and without any shelter in the deserts and along the roads leading to the border, yet the international organizations have refrained from offering any assistance to them, leaving the government and the Muslim nation of Iran as these innocent individuals' only hope. Since it is only the Islamic Republic of Iran that has opened its embrace to these suffering people, the nation and the government of Islamic Iran have to shoulder this burden by themselves.

On the basis of the instructions of the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—may his lofty shadow remain on earth for a long

time—all Muslims of Iran are dutybound to hasten to assist the defenseless and Muslim people of Iraq with all their means. His eminence's representatives in all the regions and provinces, particularly in Bakhtaran and West Azerbaijan Provinces and other regions close to the arrival points of the innocent Iraqi refugees, and also his eminence's representatives in the Red Crescent and Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, are dutybound, with the cooperation of state officials, to employ all means at their disposal to collect the people's donations and send them to the relevant regions to meet the needs of the Iraqi Muslim brothers and sisters.

It is hoped that the heroic, loyal, and Muslim nation of Iran, by using the divine blessings of this holy month, will once again take responsible steps to meet the needs of these suffering innocent refugees.

Council Views 'Very Critical' Situation

*LD0604183391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council met this evening under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and with the participation of members, political advisers, and high-ranking military commanders. In the meeting, the very critical and tragic situation of the Iraqi people and the merciless behavior of the Baghdad regime toward them were discussed and examined. The very important and pressing issues of hundreds of thousands of homeless Iraqi people seeking refuge in Iran, most of whom are women and elderly people, and the need for helping them were also discussed.

In view of the extensive dimensions of this unprecedented human tragedy, the need for immediate and speedy cooperation by all international organizations and all the world's countries was stressed, and it was declared: At the moment, the Iraqi refugees urgently need medicine, food, clothes, and tents. The National Security Council tasked the Foreign Ministry with drawing the attention of world public opinion to the issue and with organizing an international alliance.

Interior Minister on Status of Iraqi Refugees

*NC0604070491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[Text] Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians are wandering through the Iraqi wilderness and mountains under the worst possible conditions and are facing cold, a severe food shortage, and death. This is at a time when the Ba'thist army is using heavy artillery, helicopters, and other weapons to hunt down defenseless women and children, massacring them as they flee.

The calamitous situation of the Iraqi refugees is such that every hour many of them die because of shortages of food and potable water and because of the cold in the mountains of northern Iraq. The tragedy of the massacre of civilians in Iraq is taking on new, criminal dimensions.

As you know, a large number of these helpless refugees are moving toward the Iranian borders, and more than 300,000 of them have entered from our country's borders so far. We have been trying to contact Interior Minister Mr. Nuri by telephone in order to inform you, dear listeners, about the situation of these refugees and about the latest steps taken. I have been informed that the interior minister is ready to answer our questions, and I invite you to listen to my colleague's telephone conversation with the interior minister.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Nuri?

[Nuri] Yes.

[Unidentified correspondent] Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis are wandering in the Iraqi border areas or are heading for our country's borders in view of the suppression and massacre of civilians by the Ba'thist regime's army. Our listeners are waiting to hear from you about the latest situation of the refugees. Please go ahead.

[Nuri] I greet the dear listeners. As you know, an extremely large number of people are moving toward our country's western and southern borders, and the very strong pressure being inflicted by the criminal Iraqi regime on the oppressed and Muslim Iraqi people is causing extremely great concern. The situation is such that the esteemed leader has issued orders stating that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a definite responsibility toward these people's situation.

I was in touch with some border areas before this conversation. In West Azerbaijan Province, hundreds of thousands are waiting behind the Iranian borders, and up to now about 120,000 have been accepted and have entered our country. On the Khuzestan border, about 40,000 have entered so far. On the Kordestan border, about 6,000 have entered. And on the Bakhtaran border, more than 150,000 have entered. Because of the pressures that began yesterday in areas behind Bakhtaran Province, the influx is extremely great and extremely heavy. In other words, if we want to sum up, during the past few days the Islamic Republic of Iran has received more than 300,000 people, and this situation is continuing.

In various parts of Sar Dasht, Oshnaviyeh, and Piran-shahr, residents have taken people into their homes. In areas where we have camps, like in Ziveh and Khoy, the camps are filled with people. Areas in Bakhtaran—Javanrud, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Pavah, Nowsud, and even the extremely vast Heravi plain—are now filled with people. The situation is extremely disturbing.

The latest reports that I received show that there are many casualties because of mine explosions. Because of the flooding of the Sirvan River on the Iran-Iraq border, many were drowned, and because of the bombardments many of the wounded die inside Iraq. Also, the food shortages have led to a high number of deaths.

The situation is extremely disturbing, and naturally the Islamic Republic of Iran—with the principles that it believes in and on orders of the esteemed leader—considers it its duty to carry out its Islamic duties and to save the calamity-stricken people as best it can, God willing.

[Unidentified correspondent] What steps have been taken by the Interior Ministry and by the responsible organizations, and what can the people do to help the refugees?

[Nuri] So far about 20,000 tents and about 150,000 blankets, as well as a large quantity of foodstuffs and other needed items have been sent to the area. But the influx is so great that the relief that has been sent to the area by the Interior Ministry or by the Red Crescent appears to be extremely small in view of the vast dimensions of the situation.

Naturally, what is expected—and this being the auspicious month of Ramadan, when the best form of worship may possibly be a general mobilization to help these oppressed Muslims—is to meet needs by sending food, clothing and other means of warmth, canned food, dates, and other such goods that are announced by the crisis headquarters set up in the Interior Ministry and the Red Crescent.

Today, the oppressed Iraqi people feel that no one in the world is willing to strive to meet even the least of their needs. All the international organizations are making statements but are working extremely slowly, and their assistance is extremely minimal. It is our and our nation's duty not to spare any assistance, God willing.

Today, now that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the country of the prophet of God, is the safest country in the region and is witnessing the entry of many afflicted refugees, all of them expect our people to help them meet their basic needs. The Red Crescent organizations, district offices, and district organizations should mobilize the people's assistance so that we can meet these people's needs as quickly as possible and as best we can, God willing.

Of course, the situation is such that international organizations should definitely help, even though they have not done so thus far and have only issued slogans. Their help has been extremely minimal so far. They themselves are witnessing the great calamity that the oppressed Iraqi nation is facing. But they are not acting as they should. We expect them to feel some humanitarian responsibility and take serious, effective steps and not only issue slogans and resort to propaganda.

I hope that, God willing, our dear people will take effective steps within the framework of the duties that have been assigned to the officials, carry out the mission they have been tasked with by the esteemed leadership, and act in a manner befitting a country like the Islamic Republic of Iran, God willing.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you.

[Nuri] I thank you, too. Goodbye.

Kharrazi Discusses UN Meeting on Refugees

*LD0604092591 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT
6 Apr 91*

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 6, IRNA—U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is to send a delegation to Iran, Turkey and Iraq shortly on a fact-finding mission on status of the Iraqi refugees. The team is to report its findings to the Security Council, said de Cuellar in a meeting with Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N., Kamal Kharrazi here Saturday.

De Cuellar added that the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and his personal envoy were given the necessary instructions on supplying the needs of the Iraqi refugees.

In an interview with IRNA after the meeting, Kharrazi said that the secretary general was briefed about the latest developments on influx of the Iraqi refugees to Iran.

So far a total of 180,000 Iraqi refugees have arrived in Iran, 120,000 of whom have entered the country through the northern borders, he said adding that Iraqi refugees are still crossing into Iran through southern and northern border points.

He stressed that developments in Iraq are more than an internal issue and their political, economic and security consequences have affected the region.

Minister Criticizes 'Meager' Aid for Refugees

*LD0604160691 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT
6 Apr 91*

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi said on Saturday that the "entire oppressed population of Iraq" seems to be fleeing the country to escape the "blood-curdling crimes" being committed by Saddam Husayn's Ba'athist regime. He deplored that "except for a few people the world is silent towards these crimes including those who despatched huge forces to the Persian Gulf, because they do not consider it in their interests to defend the Iraqi people." International organizations like the U.N. Security Council and other decision-making circles which showed such concern for Kuwait, "have not shown any serious reaction either", regretted the interior minister. Nuri-Hoseynabadi also described the amount of international aid for the refugees as "meagre", and said they only sent 7,000 to 8,000 tents and the same number of blankets for Iraqi Arabs who had taken refuge in Khuzestan Province in the early days of the U.S.-Iraq war, and that too with so much publicity. Since the end of the Persian Gulf war and the start of the popular uprising inside Iraq, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis both Kurds

and Arabs have crossed over into Iran to escape the century's greatest human catastrophe, and the number is increasing by the day.

Deputy Minister Discusses Refugee Situation, Aid

*NC0804061691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 8 Apr 91*

[Text] Assistance to the Iraqi refugees is continuing, but much more is required in view of the vast numbers of refugees and the extent of their needs. The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran has asked the people to provide immediate and increased help to the Iraqi refugees.

The deputy interior ministry for social and political affairs, who has traveled to Nowsud and Sar-e Pole Zahab, told our correspondent that 20 planes carrying essential goods needed by the refugees have been dispatched to the region thus far by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In view of the extent of the Iraqi refugees' needs, however, this assistance can meet only part of their needs. He asked the people to provide greater assistance to help the government and refugees in this regard.

Expressing regret at the international community's failure to assist the Iraqi refugees, he said the only way they can be saved from certain death is through international and multilateral support.

Velayati on Lebanon Hostage Release Issue

*LD0504185991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati, in an exclusive interview with the American NBC and CBS TV networks, answered questions put to him by the networks' reporters on the Persian Gulf regional crisis, Iraqi internal clashes and the release of Western hostages in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

On the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, Mr. Velayati said: We hope that our hostages too will be released in Lebanon and Israel. We were able to get some of the hostages released, but at the moment, because the Lebanese hostages, excuse me, Lebanese groups that have released the hostages have not received anything from America—and on the contrary they have seen negative moves by America. We have come to a dead-end.

Referring to the fact that at the moment more than 400 Lebanese are held as hostages in Israel, the foreign minister noted that the United States and Britain are capable of obtaining their release, in view of their strong influence on Israel. Therefore, for the release of all hostages, all groups must cooperate.

Khamene'i Appoints Khomeyni Hajj Supervisor

*LD0604154391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Apr 91*

["Text" of message from Seyyed Mohammad Khomeini, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni dated 6 April—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni—may your life continue—we thank the blissful God that once again he has blessed the honorable Iranian nation with his special kindness by removing obstacles to their going on the Abrahamite pilgrimage to His house, which is a divine meeting place. By inviting the faithful to His place of festival, He has made them extremely happy.

Now, with divine blessing and under the guidance of the great guardian—may our souls be sacrificed for Him—the Iranian nation is on the threshold of attaining a great right, a right to which it was unjustly deprived for three years. There must be no doubt that the immaculate spirit of the imam of the free peoples and the pathfinder of correct thinkers—he who is the founder of Abrahamite haj and Mohamadan guardianship and disavowal, God's peace on him and his scion—is happy. His spirit is also happy because of the efforts which led to the achievement of such a greatness.

In emulating that great man, whose unprecedented confidence in your excellency has you made distinguished from others of your rank, I profess my full confidence in your knowledge, intelligence, and deep insight together with sincerity, honesty, and competence. Thus, I appoint you as my representative and the supervisor of the honorable Iranian pilgrims to Hajj. That grand religious duty, in which subservience to God and seeking his mercy and forgiveness is combined and associated with disavowal from the infidels and also with demonstration of the greatness and unity of Muslims, will be held this year under conditions in which, regrettably, parts of the Islamic territories of Arabia and Iraq are infested with the presence of and capture by the agents of polytheism and infidelity and arrogance. Regrettably, due to the mismanagement by and malice of some rulers of the Islamic countries, new quarrels and unprecedented fratricidal fights have also appeared among the Muslims. These are factors which injure the hearts of every Muslim who has honor and believes in the greatness of Islam and the unity of Muslims. Thus, hajj must serve as a healer for the tired and injured hearts of Muslims; it must show the path to elevation and well-being to Muslims, which is the path toward unity and solidarity of Muslim nations and toward strengthening their resolve to fight the camp of arrogance, the world devourers, and the plunderers of the spiritual and material wealth of the Muslims.

Since you are the dear personification of the memory of Imam-ol Mojahedin and since you are personally one of

the outstanding personalities of the Islamic Revolution and have clear and steadfast stands in confronting the conspiracies and tricks of arrogance, therefore, your excellency's presence will give to the pilgrims of Islamic countries the opportunity to hear about the divine and righteous policy of the Islamic Republic directly from the mouth of one of the representatives of that regime. Thus, they will be informed of the guidance of the Islamic Republic regarding the complicated events of the present day world and the Islamic region.

It is imperative that your excellency keep in mind all the instructions of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—regarding guidelines to his honorable representatives during hajj occasions of the past years and to act accordingly with diligence and employing all your capabilities. In particular, it is necessary for you to recommend to the Muslims to observe unity of word and to defend Islam and to fight the leaders of infidelity and ringleaders of world tyranny and corruption, as well as the aggressors and their stooges who commit aggression against the weak countries and nations. Also, inform them of the bloodstained and oppressive events which are taking place in Palestine, Iraq, and Lebanon. Also, it is necessary for you to remind all the pilgrims, especially the dear Iranian pilgrims, of their duty to submit to God and to strengthen their spiritual ties with God.

Now, on the threshold of the blessed hajj season, the memory of the victimized martyrs of the safe sanctuary of God, whose memory will never be forgotten, burns our hearts. It is hoped that their unfinished pilgrimage will, with God's blessing, attain the fullness of the pilgrimage of all Muslims. It is hoped that their blood, shed in an unjust manner, in turn will avenge all Muslim blood shed.

I deem it necessary to thank His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, the honorable speaker of the Majles—who could not personally discharge this responsibility because of his heavy responsibility in the country—for his selfless sacrifices during the hajj occasions of past years. May God bless you and your associates in that grave task with success.

Signed, Seyyed Mohammad Khamene'i, 6 April

Iraq Reportedly Abducts Second Grand Ayatollah

LD0404193391 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—The Iraqi regime has also abducted Grand Ayatollah Abol-'Ala Sabzewari and two of his sons from the holy city of al-Najaf, according to Iraqi opposition sources here today.

The supreme assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said Grand Ayatollah Sabzewari and his sons were forcibly taken from their home to an unknown place two days after senior-most alim, Grand Ayatollah

Abolqasem Kho'i, was abducted and forced to appear on Baghdad television on March 20.

"There is no information on the whereabouts or the physical conditions of his eminence Grand Ayatollah Sabzewari and his sons," added the SAIRI statement.

It said the insult to venerated Islamic scholars and the desecration of holy sites in Karbala' and al-Najaf was "proof enough of the deep-rooted enmity of Saddam Husayn's godless regime towards Islam and its lofty values."

French Officials Visit, Discuss Refugee Situation

Velayati Meets French Secretary

LD0604121191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Mr. Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state in charge of humanitarian action, who is in Iran accompanied by a parliamentary delegation, met and held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Abkar Velayati today. Mr. Velayati described the distressing status of thousands of Iraqi men, women, and children who have taken refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran to escape an extensive and destructive bombardment by the Iraqi regime, and expressed his concern over the indifference of international organizations toward helping the victims of this calamity. He said he considers assistance to refugees to be an international duty. Mr. Velayati went on to express his disappointment over the silence of governments and international circles over the massacre of the innocent Iraqi people.

This morning Mr. Kouchner also met Mr. Vahid Dastjerdi, head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society. The head of the Red Crescent Society said: Our humanitarian and religious responsibilities make us dutybound to rush to aid the oppressed and injured anywhere in the world. Based on this, and following the guidelines of the leader of the Islamic revolution, we are ready to absorb and aid the oppressed Iraqi refugees.

Nuri Meets French Official

LD0604180591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The situation of Iraqi refugees and people seeking asylum was discussed today in a meeting between Mr. Bernard Kouchner, French deputy prime minister for humanitarian affairs, and Mr. Nuri, the interior minister. According to the Central News Unit, in the meeting Mr. Nuri spoke about the extensive Iraqi attacks against the defenseless people of that country and said: While trying to escape from Iraq, many refugees have lost their lives as a result of crossing minefields or being caught in the overflowing border rivers.

He added: Despite the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is faced with issues and problems relating to Afghan

refugees, issues and problems arising in the quake-stricken regions of Zanjan and Gilan, and incidents and damage caused by floods in the border region of Sistan-Baluchestan, it has rushed to the aid of the Iraqi refugees with all its resources and capacities. The interior minister added: The leader of the Islamic Republic and the country's president are following the issue of the refugees with anxiety and it is expected that the world, too, will understand its humanitarian duty and help the Iraqi refugees.

According to the report, Mr. Bernard Kouchner expressed gratitude for the humanitarian measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: For a long time the world was indifferent to the fighting in Iraq. Now, world public opinion has been mobilized and shamed, and has realized the importance of helping the suffering people of Iraq.

Kouchner Tours Refugee Areas

LD0704171491 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT
7 Apr 91

[Text] Piran Shahr, W. Azerbaijan Prov., April 7, IRNA—The visiting French Deputy Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner inspected the relief operations in Hajj Omran area in West Azerbaijan province Sunday morning. Kouchner who arrived here Friday heading a delegation talked with a large number of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees who were crossing into Iran on foot in Tamarchin and Hajj Omran border areas.

While touring the area, tens of Iraqi refugees shouted slogans against Saddam Husayn and the missile and bomb attacks on cities and villages. An old woman told the French delegation that a group of refugees were targeted by the Iraqi fighter bombers four days ago on the way from the northern Iraqi city of Arbil to Iran. She said that a large number of people were killed or wounded in these raids.

An old man appealed to the world people to stop Saddam from massacring the innocent people. "We have lost all our belongings," he said adding "now he wants to take our lives as well." Kouchner who served as a physician in Hajj Omran region 16 years ago was deeply moved by the tragic scenes.

Criticizing Saddam's conduct, Kouchner said that the Iraqi ruler has no right to impose his will on the people of the region. In a press conference after the inspection tour, Kouchner hailed Iran's humanitarian measures and assistance saying that Iran was the first country to take care of the refugees and to welcome them.

On his observations, he promised to make efforts to meet the needs of the influx of the refugees upon his return. He expressed hope that the refugees will return to their homeland with the removal of the main cause of their catastrophe. Until then, he said, world people must continue their assistance to the refugees.

Meanwhile, Governor General of West Azerbaijan province 'Ali Sadat said 11 camps have been set up for refugees in the province and nine others were being constructed. He added that refugee camps are set up mainly in Piran Shahr and Sar Dasht but refugees are also lodged in Naqadeh, Oshnoviyeh, Miandoab, Khvoy, Salmas, Ziveh and Orumiyeh.

Some 50,000 tents, a large amount of foodstuff including bread, powdered milk, fruit preserves, biscuits, dates and tea have been distributed among the refugees. He warned that if all residents of the Kurdish populated areas of Iraq continue to arrive in the province at the present rate, West Azerbaijan will not be able to cope with the situation.

A group of French reporters filed reports and took films from the refugees during the tour of the delegation. Kouchner and his entourage returned to Orumiyeh at noon and left there for Tehran in an airplane in the afternoon.

Reports Detail Developing Refugee Crisis

'Serious Problems' Emerging

LD0504173991 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT
5 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—The number of Iraqi refugees seeking asylum with the Islamic Republic of Iran exceeded 120,000 until Friday. 60,000 of the refugees entered Iran through Piran Shahr and 10,000 through Sar Dasht both in West Azarbaijan Province and the remaining 50,000 through Nowsud in Bakhtaran Province.

Reports from border areas also indicate that hundreds of thousands of others are waiting behind the Iranian borders in West Azarbaijan and Bakhtaran Provinces to enter the country. The increase in number of refugees has created serious problems for relief workers stationed in the region.

The elderly, women, and children comprise a large number of the refugees. Some 30 refugees who were in critical conditions were transferred to hospitals in Paveh and Bakhtaran. A number of refugees had spent the past two days in mountainous areas of the region and some were bitten by snake or stung by scorpion.

Reports also indicate that a large number of Arabic speaking Iraqi refugees have gathered at Parvizkhan border area of Qasr-e Shirin, in Bakhtaran Province waiting to enter Iran. Reports from West Azarbaijan Province indicate that the arriving refugees are in bad conditions and affliction with diseases has added to their problems.

Red Cross, UK Press Cited

LD0604162191 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] London, April 6, IRNA—People in southern Iraq face a "health catastrophe of immense proportions", as a drastic shortage of safe drinking water has led to serious health problems, including a dramatic increase in diarrhoea among children, often resulting in death within a few hours, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has warned. The ICRC said the risk of epidemics was increasing daily in southern Iraq as temperatures rose, and it has appealed to the international community to mobilise urgently, "far greater means" to prevent the situation developing into a long-term disaster.

The British media has given only minimal coverage to the plight of the Arabs of Iraq who are predominantly Shi'ite, compared with the extensive coverage given to the Kurdish situation in the north. Although this could partly be explained away by the claim that journalists have greater access to northern Iraq, which was for some weeks totally under the control of the Kurds, this by no means serves as a complete excuse. It must be accepted that to a certain extent, in many British papers, the plight of the Iraqi Arabs is being virtually ignored. If this were not the case, the story of Red Cross appeals for refugees in southern Iraq, would have been carried by more British papers on Saturday. According to the UK daily, the FINANCIAL TIMES (FT), that did run the story, the whole of the area of southern Iraq not under U.S. occupation, including the holy cities of Karbala' and al-Najaf, is affected by the shortage of clean drinking water. The electricity network was destroyed during the coalition bombardment of the area. In addition, sewage stations no longer function and the remaining water system needed to be chemically cleaned.

A film, smuggled out of Iraq was shown Friday at a Muslim gathering in London, and shows the destruction of the holy cities of Karbala' and al-Najaf. It reveals that the destruction of the shrines by Iraqi troops still loyal to Saddam Husayn, was on the whole deliberate. It also reveals that torture has taken place within the confines of the shrines themselves. The desecration of the holy shrines and the imprisonment of ulema has unmasked Saddam Husayn's Islamic pretensions, which he so loudly bragged about during his war with the Americans. Even the non-Muslim Mongols during their sack of Baghdad in 1258 stayed clear of Karbala', al-Najaf and the holy shrines, as history records.

Up to 2,000 Iraqi refugees are pouring daily into make-shift camps in U.S.-occupied southern Iraq, to seek sanctuary from Saddam's forces, but observers have said they are likely to find themselves stranded in Iraq after the U.S. withdraws. Most of the Iraqi Arabs southern Iraq are received in a U.S. Army-run camp which was set up last week. According to reports in the British press, American troops said on Friday that the number of refugees under their control is already in excess of 10,000. The FT and THE GUARDIAN newspaper both

mentioned that the refugees are "desperate to avoid a return to Iraq", which would "entail likely death or torture". THE GUARDIAN pointed out that while Friday's UN resolution on the Kurds in northern Iraq called on the Baghdad regime to allow the Red Cross into Kurdish areas, it "made no mention of similar help going to the Iraqi Arabs, whose uprising continues in southern Iraq despite the weapons of mass destruction deployed against them by the republican guard".

Tens of thousands of Iraqi Arabs have also sought refuge in Iran since the start of the popular rising in Iraq following the routing of the Ba'athist war machine at the hands of the American led forces.

Film Portrays Iraqi 'Torture'

LD0604165391 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] London, April 6, IRNA—A film smuggled out of Iraq by Western journalists and shown to Muslims in London, has revealed that much of the damage done in the holy cities of Karbala' and al-Najaf, by Iraqi troops, was deliberate.

It also says that parts of the shrine of the Prophet's (PBUH [Peace Be Upon Him]) cousin and son-in-law Imam 'Ali (PBUH) in al-Najaf, and that of the latter's two sons Imam Husayn (PBUH) and Abul-Fazl 'Abbas (PBUH) in Karbala' have been converted into torture chambers and 'hanging rooms' by the Ba'athist troops.

The 30-minute-long film shows clips of al-Najaf and Karbala' and reveals a disastrous situation in both cities. It showed that the dome of Hadhrat 'Abbas's (PBUH) shrine is covered in holes and the chandeliers have all been smashed and ruined. Bullet holes riddle the entire shrine's infrastructure. Inside, a hanging chamber has reportedly been set up.

The clips showed a noose, tied to the top of a dome within the shrine, with a chair underneath. According to the narration, victims were made to stand on the chair, the noose was fixed around their necks and the chair was kicked away by the Ba'athist troops.

In another clip, a room was shown covered with blood and was said to be a torture chamber. Two pairs of blood-soaked slippers lay on the floor near a wall, on which was written in Arabic "Death to Saddam and Victory to Islam."

In Karbala's Husayniyyah hospital bodies litter the floor, and beds were strewn everywhere. The film indicated that since the hospital was treating revolutionaries as well as civilians, Saddam's Army came and killed everyone in the hospital, even women, children and the elderly in the most unmanly fashion.

The video, produced by Worldwide Television News (WTN) and shown by the Kho'i Foundation, has not been made widely available and does not appear to have been shown on any of Britain's main television channels.

It portrayed Karabala' as a ghost town with smashed buildings everywhere. And it showed Iraqi soldiers walking with their weapons and wearing shoes, in the courtyard of Imam Husayn's (PBUH) and Hadhrat 'Abbas's (PBUH) shrines smiling, laughing and joking.

The film also revealed that in al-Najaf Imam 'Ali's (PBUH) shrine has suffered considerable damage. The whole of the world surrounding it has been damaged to such a degree that it is beyond repair, and will have to be totally reconstructed. Bullet marks are everywhere. And in the entry to the tomb of Imam 'Ali (PBUH) there is a hanging room, similar to that in Karbala'.

Decomposing bodies litter all the streets of al-Najaf and in some parts of the city no sign of life is visible. In one scene in the film, an Iraqi soldier pointed his weapon at the shrine and pretended to fire it, smiling the whole while.

The video film also shows the interview the Grand Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i had with Saddam, but there was no soundtrack so it is not known what was said during the conversation. But in another interview, Ayatollah Kho'i was asked a question by a Western journalist in English, but the Iraqi translator asked the ayatollah a completely different question in Arabic.

The 95-year-old Ayatollah Kho'i was abducted by the Ba'athist troops and forced to appear on television.

Kurdish Refugees 'Pathetic Spectacle'

LD0604165191 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Sanandaj (Kordestan), April 6, IRNA—The number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees gathering at Iranian borders in Baneh and Marivan to escape the genocide in Ba'athist Iraq, has exceeded 450,000, and the figure is expected to rise. Hundreds of thousands of others have already entered Iran, and the number is expected to exceed 1.5 million and perhaps more, as the whole population of Iraq, both Kurds and Arabs, seem to be on the move for safer heavens [as received] to escape the worst bloodbath of the century.

Hungry and in shabby clothes, 400,000 Kurds driven away from their ancestral lands by Iraqi military forces, have formed a 20 km long queue in the freezing weather across the Savaji [name as received] border crossing in this northwestern province, awaiting permission to enter Iran. The sight of crying children and people who have seen their houses flattened by Saddam Husayn's unmanly military force which last month was pounded out of Kuwait after committing all sorts of atrocities there, presents a pathetic spectacle. Behind the long winding queue of refugees who have trudged through snow-filled mountain passes to reach the Iranian border, are some 50,000 private cars and buses, an indication that the refugee flow is on the rise. As of Friday, Iranian relief workers are busy round the clock, providing food,

shelter and medicines to the hapless people, but in view of the daily increase in the number of refugees more relief aid is needed.

In related news from Bakhtaran, down south, some 200,000 other refugees have crossed into Iran via the Nowzad border checkpoint. Red Crescent officials are busy housing the Iraqi refugees in the Heravi camp near Nowzad. On Friday, 22 truck-loads of relief aid including blankets, canned fish, canned fruits and biscuits were distributed among the refugees in Bakhtaran Province.

With the arrival of 45,000 more Iraqi refugees in the northwestern province of West Azerbaijan over the past 24 hours, the number of refugees staying in the province reached 115,000. Reports from the border town of Piran Shahr, West Azerbaijan, indicates that all mosques, streets, public sites and squares of the town are packed with refugees who managed to escape the bloodbath in Iraq. Many Iranian families in Piranshahr have volunteered to host their brother Muslims from Iraq. One household has given shelter to 50 refugees. It is the month of Ramadan, and the people have gone out of their way to help the oppressed Iraqis. According to Piranshahr Governor Ahmad Ziaei [name as received], the town has admitted refugees twice or three times beyond its capacity. Piranshahr hospitals and other medical centers are treating between 500 to 1,000 sick Iraqis per day. Scores of pregnant Kurdish women have given birth to babies at these centres.

A parallel influx of refugees continues in the southern province of Khuzestan where recently some 21,000 Arabs entered Iran via the Shalamchek crossing.

The popular uprising still continues in parts of southern Iraq, and according to refugee sources the regime has adopted the most brutal forms of repression against the Arab population. Pro-government troops are indiscriminately killing peaceful civilians, and in one recent instance in the town of al-Kut, said the fresh arrivals "Republican Guards bound together and burned in the main public square five entire families comprising 37 members." In some towns in southern Iraq, escape routes have been blocked and thousands of men, women and children butchered by the Iraqi troops. The mass popular uprising against the detested regime of Saddam Husayn started last month in the southern port-city of al-Basrah and quickly engulfed almost all of Iraq including the capital Baghdad.

However, with the change in the Western attitude, especially Washington's tacit support for suppression of the democratic aspirations of the Iraqi populace, the Ba'athist regime resorted to weapons of mass destruction including chemicals, slaughtering and turning into refugees hundreds of thousands of its own people.

Shortages May Halt Entry

NC0704075091 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The crisis headquarters set up in the Ministry of Interior has announced that as of now, more than 350,000 refugees have crossed over from the Bakhtaran border, more than 50,000 persons from the Khuzestan border, 120,000 persons have come in from the West Azerbaijan border, and more than 20,000 have entered Iranian territory from Kurdistan. This headquarters, which was established following the influx of Iraqi refugees into Iran, announced that in addition, several hundred thousand people are waiting on the other side of the border to obtain permission to enter, but due to the shortage of resources, their acceptance cannot be envisaged.

At present, in order to attend to the refugees as soon as possible, there is an urgent need for bread, lentils, canned goods, blankets, portable lamps and lanterns, dates, raisins, shoes and clothing.

548,000 Iraqis Received

LD0704110791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The headquarters for the affairs of Iraqi refugees at the Interior Ministry has announced: The number of Iraqi refugees who have arrived in Iran as of 0820 today by way of the provinces of Bakhtaran, W. Azerbaijan, Kordestan, and Khuzestan has reached 548,000. Of these, Bakhtaran has received 350,000, W. Azerbaijan 120,000, Khuzestan 58,000, and Kordestan Province 20,000.

According to the report, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees are waiting on the other side of the border to enter Iran, but it is not possible to receive them because of a shortage of food, clothing, and vital necessities.

Refugees Recount 'Inhuman Treatment'

LD0704120791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] On the plight of Iraqi refugees and their inhuman treatment by Ba'athist forces, the Central News Unit correspondent reports from Bakhtaran:

[Unidentified correspondent] The Muslim Iraqi refugees who have recently fled to Iran from the tyranny and brutality of the ruling Ba'athist regime in Iraq, via the Nowsud and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab borders, spoke of the barbaric and inhuman acts perpetrated by the Ba'athist forces and their massacre of the Muslim and defenseless people of Iraq. They said: The forces under the command of the Ba'athist regime stop short of nothing in their suppression of the people of that country. They are firing bullets at the people indiscriminately and in sheer ruthlessness. These refugees added: To shelter from the Ba'athist atrocities, the Iraqi people have been forced to leave their homes, and in the past few days the Iraqi families have been heading toward the borders of the

Islamic Republic of Iran on foot or in any available vehicles so as to save themselves and their families from certain death. Unfortunately, however, the forces of the Ba'athist regime launched a ruthless attack using helicopter gunships on the Arbat-(?Sadeh) road against the fleeing men, women, and children who were heading toward the Iranian borders, as a result of which a number of the Muslim and defenseless Iraqi fugitives were killed.

An Iraqi woman fugitive who gave birth on the way lost her child due to hunger and the lack of milk and food supplies. Eyewitnesses also said a number of fugitives died of hunger or exhaustion or drowned in the river on their route, or died en masse while crossing minefields in Iraqi territory.

Another group of Iraqi Muslim fugitives disclosed the crimes of the Munafeqin organization [Mujahedin-e Khalq] and added: When the uprising of the Muslim Iraqi people against the ruling Ba'athist regime in that country reached an all time high, and the Ba'athist forces had become weakened, in order to support them the Monafeqin, disguising themselves as loyal forces, surrendered to the Iraqi opponents and then seizing a suitable opportunity killed and massacred the men, women, and children. On arriving in the Islamic Republic, the refugees by stressing that their only supporter and refuge is the Islamic Republic of Iran, thanked the support rendered by the government and the people of Iran.

Relief Supplies Mobilized

LD0704153391 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT
7 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Relief supplies are being sent to areas in Iran-Iraq border from various parts of the country following the Saturday call of leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urging the nation to help Iraqi refugees arriving in Iran. The nation and various government bodies have been mobilized to help the Iraqi refugees who have either arrived in the country over the past few days or are waiting at the border to enter Iran.

According to the latest figures released by the Interior Ministry Sunday, some 580,000 Iraqi refugees, Arabs and Kurd, have entered the country through various border points till Sunday morning. Headquarters have been set up in all Iranian cities to collect public donations for the incoming refugees, arriving mainly in western Iran in thousands.

In the Western province of Bakhtaran, people have donated some 30 truckloads of medicine, foodstuff, and essential supplies to the refugees. The Bakhtaran Red Crescent Society has distributed tens of tons of foodstuff, blankets and medicine among refugees who are lodged in the province.

At least 400,000 refugees entered Iran through Nowsud, Sheikh Sale, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin in Bakhtaran Province and hundreds of thousands of

others are waiting behind the border to enter Iran. Arrival of such a massive number of refugees has created serious problems for the local people and officials.

People of the northeastern province of Khorasan have sent six ambulances to Bakhtaran Province, the province which is receiving the largest number of the refugees. A C-130 cargo plane airlifted relief supplies, mainly tents, from Isfahan Province to western parts of the country, said a provincial official Sunday.

Meanwhile a number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees died of cold weather at Iraq-Iran border near Marivan on Friday. Some 100 women, children and men have died of hunger and cold so far along the Savoji (near Iran's Marivan)- Panjwein (in Iraq) road. Relief workers distributed over one hundred tons of foodstuff donated by people of Iran's northwestern province of Kurdistan among the refugees lodged in the province.

More than 60,000 Kurdish refugees residents of Kirkuk and Sulaimaniya are waiting to enter Iran at the Baneh border point, in Kurdistan Province. Among the arriving refugees there are hundreds of elderly men and women, sick people, those injured by stepping on mines on their difficult journey through the mountainous areas on bare foot, as well as expecting mothers.

Hundreds of thousands of residents of Sulaimaniya, Halabja, Kirkuk, Erbil, Seyyed Saddeq and other Iraqi cities bordering Iran's Bakhtaran Province are moving towards Iran in long queues in cold weather and starving. Unofficial reports set the number of refugees moving towards Iran at 1.5 million people. In addition to the refugee camps, several spots in Ravansar and Dasht-e Zahab have been considered for setting up temporary camps to lodge the refugees and relief workers started setting up 6,000 tents Sunday morning.

Refugee Situation Updated

LD0704180991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The Department for Iraqi Refugee Affairs, based at the Interior Ministry, has announced: the numbers of Iraqi refugees entering our country via the western borders by 1700 today are as follows. Khuzestan province—51,500; West Azerbaijan province—224,000; Kordestan province—23,000; Bakhtaran province—400,000. This makes a total of 698,500 refugees.

It is worth noting that during this period 10 C-130 aircraft and a Jumbo jet of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces in coordination with the Department for Iraqi Refugee Affairs, transported 170 tonnes of foodstuffs, clothing, tents, blankets, dried milk, and other basic items needed by the Iraqi refugees, collected from all over the country, to the provinces of Bakhtaran, West Azerbaijan, and Kordestan.

The latest report also states: Columns many miles long of Iraqi refugees who are in despair of the Ba'th Party of Iraq are in the process of entering Iranian territory.

Radio Comments on Iraqi 'Massacre' of Kurds

LD0604220891 Tehran International Service
in English 1930 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the large scale massacre of the Muslim people of Iraq and the extensive suppression of the dissidents by the Iraqi Government alongside culmination of worldwide protest over the Iraqi regime's inhuman behavior towards the defenseless people of that country, the UN Security Council met last night. In its Resolution 688 the Council condemned the crushing of the people of Iraq and appealed for humanitarian international aid to the civilian people of Iraq. Resolution 688, which was passed with 10 votes in favor, three votes against, and two votes in abstention, calls upon Iraq to immediately terminate these suppressive operations. Resolution 688 was approved by the Security Council members under the conditions when Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council yesterday that claimed that the government troops had completely crushed the popular uprising in the country.

Meanwhile the Kurdish sources report that during the past weeks, over 100,000 Kurds in northern Iraq had been killed by the government forces. These forces also pointed out that on account of the military onslaught of the government troops, over 5,000 villages in the mountains of north Iraq had been turned into ruins. Also over 500 people with nearly 200 of them children had perished due to inclement weather and hunger in those regions. Continuing the suppression of the opposition forces in northern and southern Iraq apart from creating (pitiable) living conditions in those areas, has also caused an exodus of refugees who have left their homes due to fear of life. These refugees who were wandering in snow-covered mountains and suffering from cold and hunger have brought about a pathetic situation. The flood of Iraqi refugees towards the neighboring countries of Iran and Turkey is continuing unabated. The Iraqi refugees in Iran currently number over 300,000 and in view of their growing trend it is estimated that this figure will rise to about half a million.

Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations, Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, in a report to the UN secretary general on the latest situation of the Iraqi refugees, conveyed his country's concern over the continuing suppression of the Iraqi civilians by that country's government. While referring to the humanitarian aid being extended to the Iraqi refugees, he added, they would welcome aid from international circles and the world community in this regard. Iran's permanent representative at the UN, in connection with the best way of aiding the Iraqi nation in overcoming its pains and sufferings, noted: At present we are consulting with the representatives and the ambassadors of the Islamic and Arab states as well as some members of the Security Council, for we believe that the people of Iraq are the main victims of the past several months' events.

Although the Iraqi Government, apparently by granting general amnesty for the Kurds of the country, has asked them to return home, the Kurdish sources, referring to their previous experiences in this respect, have rejected the proposal, terming it as a lie, and pointing out that the Kurds would never forget the (?recent) crimes and massacres let (?loose) by their government forces.

Press Blames U.S., Allies for Refugee Situation

LD0804113291 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT
8 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRAN—The three leading morning dailies Monday editorialized on influx of the Iraqi refugees who are arriving in thousands at Iranian borders fleeing from the genocide in Iraq.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote, "The blood-thirsty Iraqi regime, in the aftermath of a humiliating defeat by the allied forces, thinks of nothing but revenge to recover its losses, even at the expense of the Iraqi Muslim people whom it heartlessly kills."

Recent events, it added, "also give light to the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. and its allies."

The allied forces after their victory in the Persian Gulf war encouraged the Iraqi masses to rise up against their ruler with the aim to establish a democratic government, the paper said. However, when they revolted against the Baghdad regime and "sacrificed their lives, the so-called 'policemen' of democracy stood aside and watched, preferring a weakened Saddam to a new ruler whom they couldn't trust."

"The world is filled with stories of crimes committed by so-called civilized countries who call for human rights but are actually oblivious to the sufferings of the oppressed people of the world. They sound out empty slogans calling for action in the midst of suffering and oppression but themselves are guilty by virtue of their inaction...Crimes of 'inaction' are just as condemnable as crimes of 'action' and in this regard the U.S. and its allies stand on the same footing with the dictator Saddam."

The other English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' reiterated that "nothing practical is being done to address the inhuman suffering of more than two million Iraqi refugees who have fled their homes to escape persecution by the Ba'ath government."

It said, "If the Bush administration was able to get together hundreds of billions of dollars to fight Iraq's forced occupation of the emirate, it can and should see to it that a good percentage of that money is spent to urgently open what a French minister called 'human corridor'."

The daily considered that the refugee problem was created because President Bush sought to interfere in the affairs of their country.

"The hundreds and thousands of Iraqi men, women and children are affected the most by multinational intervention in the Iraq-Kuwait conflict and so must be assisted without delay by the primary parties to the Persian Gulf war."

Stating that "the Islamic Republic of Iran is no newcomer to the small group of countries trying to ease refugee difficulties," it said, "but when the exodus is nonstop and international assistance limited and politicized, Iran, Turkey or any other country for the matter cannot be expected to do better than this."

"What is happening in Iraq is unjustified by any standard and it is the duty of the international community to put an end to further loss of innocent life. The situation near Iraq's frontiers with Iran and Turkey is alarming as the refugee casualty list rises with the passage of each hour."

It concluded, "An urgent and collective response may be able to help the two million people in need of food and shelter. Any workable relief program should be duly coordinated with international organizations and those countries who went to war with the Iraqi leader to restore another despotic regime."

The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' described as a "bitter reality" the fact that among Iraq's neighbours merely the Islamic Iran has welcomed and assisted the refugees.

Reiterating that Saddam is a "war criminal", "a blood-thirsty murderer" and a "savage", the daily said that three fundamental issues must be taken into consideration: rendering immediate assistance to the refugees and efforts to reduce the number of casualties and alleviate their sufferings, finding a solution to eradicate the root causes of the exodus of helpless Iraqis and finally, to unveil the facts which led to the catastrophe.

It said that the U.S. encouraged the Iraqi people to rise up against the Baghdad regime but realized that a popular government which will take over will be an Islamic one. Therefore, the U.S. criminal statesmen gave the "green light" to Saddam to massacre the masses and even allowed him to deploy against the nation helicopter gunships and war planes.

Saddam is a barbarian but still he could not commit all the crimes of the past decade without the West's consent and support, it said stressing that the role played by the allies in the past month led to such atrocities.

"France, the U.S. and Britain" are directly responsible for the events in Iraq and "accomplices to Saddam's crimes and cannot claim to have accomplished their responsibilities by sending few consignments of food to Iraq."

"The issue of Iraq will not be solved by merely assisting the refugees, rather root causes of homelessness of millions of people must be removed."

The paper in conclusion urged the international body to seriously and effectively confront Saddam in a bid to eradicate causes of homelessness of the Iraqi people.

Radio Urges International Aid for Iraqi Refugees

*LD0804140891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1108 GMT 8 Apr 91*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear and honorable listeners. Due to the severe suppression by forces loyal to the Baghdad regime, currently 1.5 million Iraqis are refugees—over half of them have crossed the border into the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to official estimates, over 700,000 Iraqis have entered the Islamic Republic of Iran via the northern and southern border regions. Meanwhile, the interior minister has estimated that the figure may rise to nearly 1.5 million people, considering the number of people who are on the move via roads and tracks toward the Islamic Republic. On the other hand, according to Turkish officials, 250,000 Iraqi refugees are being kept on that country's border with Iraq. With regard to this, Turkey has asked for assistance on many occasions from international organizations and Western governments. Furthermore, U.S. officials announced that 400,000 refugees have entered the regions occupied by U.S. forces in Iraq.

Considering the increasing number of Iraqi refugees, the Islamic Republic of Iran, while taking into account the humanitarian issues of the tragic events in Iraq, has undertaken special measures to feed, clothe, and house them throughout the country. Besides the measures taken by the government, the people have set up countless centers in towns and villages to collect supplies needed by the refugees in order to assist and express their solidarity with the Iraqi refugees. It is clear, however, that the many needs of the refugees far exceed the level of aid that has hitherto been provided. Currently tents, clothes, heating equipment, and blankets are among the most important needs of the refugees.

Although discussions are continuing in the world's media with regard to the suffering of the Iraqi people, especially in the south and the north, with different views on ways and means of assistance constantly being expressed, the level of assistance through effective channels that must be put at the disposal of oppressed Iraqis has not yet been dispatched as hoped. Practical measures, on an international scale, have not reached the extent to counter the damages to the victims of the irrational policies of Iraq's ringleaders during the past decade. Therefore, the situation is extremely worrying.

According to confirmed reports, every day dozens of people die due to cold, lack of food, minefields, and crossing rivers. As the suppression continues in cities that fall to forces loyal to Saddam, new waves of people leave Iraq. The unprecedented concentration of these refugees in bordering countries, especially in Iran, has

turned the issue of the Iraqi refugees into an international problem. There are two important reasons for the international community to pay attention to this issue as soon as possible. First, from the humanitarian point of view and the obligation that human society has toward other humans who are in need. Second, from the political point of view, looking at the treatment of people by governments.

If one does not pay attention to the human dimension, many innocent people will lose their lives. This has affected human consciousness. Therefore, governments are duty-bound to gather resources and put them at the disposal of the needy. Concerning the political dimension and the issue of Iraqi refugees, the following question arises: How far can governments go in pressuring the people in order to force their personal or collected views upon them? Should what is happening in Iraq today—the attacking of residential homes and holy shrines, the Iraqi military knows no bounds—be allowed to continue? The tragedy that is unfolding in Iraq has already produced difficulties for her neighboring countries. This is unprecedented in the past decades. It is essential that governments of the world, through effective channels, pressure the Iraqi Government into stopping the massacre of the people and allowing the people to choose their destiny freely.

In any case, immediate relief work for the Iraqi refugees—especially on an international scale, without any propaganda—must occur as soon as possible. Any delay that leads to the sacrifice of thousands of innocent people will be the responsibility of human society, especially those governments that do not differentiate between their obligations toward people and their material and economic interests in the Persian Gulf.

Paper Views Regional Security, U.S. Presence

*NC0504183391 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
28 Mar 91 p 2*

[Editorial: "Security in P. Gulf Has No Need for U.S. Help"]

[Text] A U.S. daily has recently disclosed that the Pentagon and Bahrain have approached an all-out agreement for the establishment of a permanent military base and command of the central operations of the joint U.S.-Bahraini forces. NEW YORK TIMES, in its Monday issue, wrote that transfer of the headquarters of the central operations of U.S. forces from its present venue in Florida to the Persian Gulf region has been one of the major objectives Pentagon has been awaiting for long.

Although U.S. official sources have not yet commented on their plan on how to stay in the Persian Gulf, evidences are available that the White House leaders are determined to take maximum advantage of their military victory over Iraq in order to materialize their hegemonist objectives. To this end, they exert utmost effort to gain such a goal without having any rival.

At the time of their military attack against Iraq, the Americans were forced to show that they embarked on such an action together with the international community and in line with resolutions of the UN Security Council and would make shuttle trips in order to preserve unity of the West in following their policies. But now, when there are talks over the establishment of a military base, the Americans have forgotten their allies and in order to prove that the U.S. is the "sole police" of the world, they reject cooperation with any forces.

The Americans know well that nothing in the Middle East would be stable for a long time and that present military victory of the U.S. against Iraq would not necessarily entail political victory as well. In fact, no power in the world could establish true security in the Persian Gulf region in the absence of cooperation of the regional states.

If the Americans intend to establish permanent bases in the Persian Gulf, this right would be reserved for other world powers such as Soviet Union, France, India etc and also regional powers to have a military presence in this region. In this event, the region would be turned into a zone for military rivalry and the only thing which could not be experienced in this part of the world would be "security and stability." At present seven countries out of the eight Persian Gulf states, that is Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain have no dispute with each other over the establishment of security in the region. This is something that should be well marked.

It is only Iraq which might disturb security in this region. Given the ambiguous status quo in Iraq, and with regard to the fact that the ongoing popular uprising in Iraq would become victorious, for which there are strong hopes, there would be no need for a military presence of any foreign power in the Persian Gulf region.

Mohtashemi Discusses BAYAN Magazine Objectives

NC0504181491 Tehran SALAM in Persian
17 Mar 91 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Tehran Majles deputy in Tehran by unidentified SALAM reporter—date not given]

[Excerpts] [SALAM] What was your objective in publishing the "BAYAN" magazine?

[Mohtashemi] Regarding my motive and objective in publishing BAYAN magazine, I should say that in a revolutionary society, or a political society in which an Islamic Revolution has taken place, there is a strong need for the people and the main body of the Revolution, that is the revolutionary forces, who are young and enlightened and are present in the organizations, institutions, and educational institutions, to grow and be nurtured politically and mentally alongside the grandeur and magnificence of the Revolution. Unfortunately, in

the aftermath of the Revolution, this was not attended to and no fundamental measures were taken in this regard in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, considering the vacuum in the political and cultural sphere in popular society, we felt that it was most appropriate that those who think within the framework of the Revolution, and follow the thinking of the imam's way of thought and pure Muhammadan Islam, and have taken steps in this regard and have a presence in the Revolution should be nurtured spiritually and mentally in view of their closeness to the imam.

Therefore, this was our motive in publishing BAYAN magazine, so that we could have contact with our readers, who form the bulk of our revolutionary society, and address political, cultural, social, and economic issues, and all other events and incidents in this framework and present them to the readers. In this way we could be in touch with them, convey our comments to them, and instill hope in them. This was what motivated us to publish the monthly BAYAN despite all our difficulties.

[SALAM] How successful were you?

[Mohtashemi] To assess the success of BAYAN we should make an assessment of BAYAN itself and what was achieved in its eight editions. I admit its printing quality was not ideal, because we could not obtain what we wanted and present it accordingly. We tried our best to eliminate these difficulties. My assessment of BAYAN is that the magazine had a very sincere approach to its readers and society, and this sincere approach was the reason that it had so many readers from various factions and trends in our society. I do not believe that a politico-cultural publication should have an insincere or hypocritical approach to its readers and for various reasons BAYAN got a very fervent response. [passage omitted]

Among the secrets of its success was the expression of domestic, economic, foreign, or political issues of the society. We observed that after the demise of his eminence the imam, our society was plunged into deep and extreme despondency, and our revolutionary and Hezbollah forces felt that they no longer had their former backing and were not able to state the various issues of the Revolution, that they no longer had a voice in the country's executive system, and that they were being eliminated from the scene.

In circumstances when the forces who comprise the main body of the Revolution felt they had no say in matters, suddenly BAYAN appeared and presented the voices from the hearts of these mobilization forces, of the martyrs' families, of the revolutionary forces among the oppressed masses of the people. This can be considered one of the main secrets of its success.

[SALAM]: Was there any direct or indirect pressure exerted on the publication of BAYAN magazine?

[Mohtashemi]: It is natural that if there is a magazine, a publication, or even an ordinary speaker who wishes to act against hypocrisy or to go against the tide, there are more powerful currents with stronger objectives who enter the fray, to isolate this right thinking and activity on behalf of the deprived and oppressed. Well, when those who have money and wealth, who have social status and enjoy positions and support that are not rightfully theirs—or those who harbor satanic thoughts and indulge in non-Islamic politics because of the means at their disposal—see their interests are endangered, they attempt to clash with the fronts of truth and revolutionary thinking. This is very natural. We cannot expect to initiate an open, clear, and revolutionary movement in society and not to be exposed to pressure or duress. [passage omitted]

Following the publication of BAYAN, we were subjected to political and propaganda pressure by many centers of power. You saw conspicuous examples of this in various publications and newspapers that wrote articles about us, and the same from various platforms, in particular from the tribune of the Friday prayers, or even in the Islamic Majles, and how some members of a particular faction spewed venom and distorted facts to prevent us from continuing our rightful course, or could neutralize the positive effects of our actions on the offspring of the Revolution. In fact, even officials at various gatherings and functions resorted to provocative insinuations in this regard.

[SALAM] What was the effect of BAYAN outside the country?

[Mohtashemi] The requests we received from abroad are an indication of the intensity with which BAYAN was welcomed and of its positive effects. Similarly, the attention given to BAYAN by foreign and Zionist news agencies proves how much they feared this political, social, and cultural movement in Iran.

[SALAM]: The nebulous charge has been leveled that BAYAN only criticizes but never provides a solution. Do you not consider this a weakness of BAYAN?

[Mohtashemi] Every committed and revolutionary publication is similar to an active and sensitive eye. This is the exact mission of a publication and it is natural that the task of providing expertise is not in harmony with the obligations of a publication.

[SALAM] What was the reason for the delay in the publication of BAYAN?

[Mohtashemi] The delay in the publication of the ninth edition was caused by financial and logistical shortages. We had problems with the location. The BAYAN office was on rented premises and the landlord had some disputes with tenants in the building, filed a complaint, and immediately brought a court order for evacuation of the premises. We were forced to vacate the office and to find alternative accommodation for an office for the magazine, of course with some changes, which were

necessary for these reasons. We also had other problems, however, which will be gradually eliminated, and, with hope from God, we will bring out the ninth edition in the year 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991]. We hope such difficulties will not cause any delays or suspension of the publication of BAYAN magazine.

Netherlands Ties Raised to Ambassador Level

LD0504115191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the Islamic republic of Iran and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have decided to raise their diplomatic relations to the embassy level.

Pakistan

UN Chief To Consider Sending Team to Khowst

BK0604022791 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] UN Secretary General Perez De Cuellar has agreed to consider the proposal to send a UN team to the liberated town of Khowst in Afghanistan and that he use his influence to stop the Kabul regime's Scud missile and air attacks on the town. The UN chief agreed to this at the talks with Pakistan UN Ambassador Jamshed Marker in New York last night during which the recent developments in Afghanistan were discussed. The Pakistani ambassador said that the mujahidin have liberated the garrison city of Khowst with the help and cooperation of the local population.

Mujahidin Khowst Victory Said Good for Peace

BK0804034791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT
7 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 7 (AFP)—Pakistan said Sunday that the capture of Khowst by Afghan mujahidin a week ago would greatly help the cause of a political settlement in Afghanistan. "It would galvanize peace efforts for a consensus that ensures the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul acceptable to the Afghan people," a foreign office spokesman said in a statement.

He renewed Pakistan's commitment to support the United Nations Secretary General's efforts for a political solution that would enable more than three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan to return home. The spokesman urged Javier Perez de Cuellar to use his influence to stop "aerial bombardment and Scud attacks" on Khowst by the Kabul Government which, he said, had been "unnerved by the mujahidin victory."

These attacks were causing "great loss" of life and property, he said. Rejecting Kabul's allegations of Pakistani interference in Khowst, the spokesman said the "liberation" of the garrison city was the fruit of concerted efforts of Afghan mujahidin, local population and

their shuras (councils). He praised the mujahidin leaders and commanders for "restoring peace" in Khowst, saying that prisoners of war were being treated with "full respect of human rights."

Kabul Radio, monitored here, said the Afghan Government Sunday lodged a strong protest with the Pakistani mission over the visit to Khost by the chief of the Pakistani Jamaat-e-Islami party, Qazi Hussain Ahmed. The government warned that Pakistan would be solely responsible for the consequences if it did not stop "interfering" in Khowst, the radio said. It also claimed that Pakistani soldiers and militia were engaged in "looting" in Khowst along with the rebels.

Kashmir Premier Assails India on Atrocities

BK0704115491 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The AJK [Azad Jammu Kashmir] prime minister, Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathod, has appealed to the UN Secretary General and members of the Security Council to send a delegation to occupied Kashmir to see the atrocities unleashed by Indian forces on the Kashmiri people. Addressing a news conference in Muzaffarabad today, he said, India, after failing to suppress the popular uprising of the Kashmiris, has now started unprovoked firing on civilian population.

Cabinet Condemns Situation in India-Held Kashmir

BK0604120891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The federal cabinet which met in Islamabad today has condemned and expressed sorrow over the latest situation in occupied Kashmir, particularly the ban imposed on freedom fighters' (?views) and statements. The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, presided. Briefing newsmen about the meeting, the adviser to the prime minister on information and broadcasting, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, said the cabinet directed the foreign secretary, currently in New Delhi, to take up the situation in occupied Kashmir with India. He said the cabinet particularly condemned killings of innocent youths, disrespect to womenfolk, and reign of terror let loose by Indian forces against the people of occupied territory.

Spokesman Briefs on Kashmir, Afghanistan Issues

BK0804114691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan has made it clear to India that any significant improvement in bilateral relations depends on a settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with bilateral and international commitments. This was conveyed by the foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, to his Indian counterpart, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, during their talks in New Delhi. Briefing newsmen about the talks, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad this afternoon that both sides recognized the need to discuss all the issues with a view to reaching (?acceptable)

solutions. They also agreed that settlement of major issues calls for patience and perseverance.

Referring to Afghanistan, he said Pakistan is embarking on a new initiative for a political solution of the problem. The spokesman said Pakistan would contact the countries relevant to the Afghan issue, including the Soviet Union, Iran, Saudi Arabia, United States and China in addition to the UN secretary general for this purpose.

One Injured in Indian Firing in Kashmir

BK0504125291 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
5 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Khui Ratta (AJK) April 4—A person [named] Mohammad Shabpal was seriously injured in Indian firing at Janjot Bahadur in Khun Ratta sector, according to reports reaching from Satnensa today.

He was admitted to Kotli District hospital. A number of cattle have also been injured in the Indian firing. The unprovoked firing has created panic among the people in surrounding villages and they have appealed to the Pakistan Government to take serious note of the incident.—PPI [Pakistan Press International]

Premier's Special Emissary Goes to Bangladesh

BK0604153291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Railway Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani has gone to Bangladesh as a special emissary of the prime minister. He is leading a three-member delegation. During his stay in Bangladesh, he will exchange views with Bangladesh Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, and other leaders on matters related to further consolidating the existing cordial relations between the two countries.

Cabinet Meeting Discusses Afghanistan, Other Issues

BK0604163691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The federal cabinet which met in Islamabad today has condemned the Indian forces' repression in occupied Kashmir, particularly wanton killings of youth and disrespect to women. It deplored India's latest action banning all news of the freedom struggle in the occupied territory. The foreign secretary, now in New Delhi, was directed to take up the issue with Indian authorities. The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, presided over the meeting.

Briefing newsmen, the adviser to the prime minister on information and broadcasting, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, said the cabinet discussed in detail the latest situation in occupied Kashmir with particular reference to the brutalities committed by the Indian forces against innocent and unarmed population.

On Afghanistan, the cabinet urged the UN secretary general to take all necessary measures to find an early political solution of this problem. It assured him that Pakistan was willing to play its due role to facilitate a peaceful solution. He said Pakistan remained committed to its principled and consistent stand on Afghanistan. Replying to a question, the adviser made it clear that the return of Afghan refugees now in Pakistan was subject to the creation of conducive conditions in their homeland.

The cabinet held an in-depth review of the state of affairs of Pakistan Railway and considered ways and means to improve its performance, minimize losses and turn it into a profitable organization. The cabinet also decided to lift the ban on the employment of persons who had received education in communist countries without due permission of the government. The cabinet accorded its approval to the setting up of joint ministerial commissions with Thailand and Sudan.

The meeting enhanced the punishment on unauthorized fishing in Pakistan's maritime fishing zones to 1 crore rupees and imprisonment of five years. Replying to a question, the adviser said a joint session of parliament would be held on Wednesday [10 April].

Infiltration of Indian, Israeli Saboteurs Viewed

BK0704143691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] During question hour in the National Assembly this afternoon, Interior Minister Chudhary Shujat Husain has informed the house about the reports from some government institutions that Indian and Israeli saboteurs have infiltrated into the country to carry out mischievous and terrorist activities. He said the government is fully aware of this threat and has taken several steps to overcome it.

The interior minister also informed the house that in the past two years, licenses issued for prohibited bore-weapons have been revoked. The owners of such weapons have been asked to surrender them to the police stations in their localities.

Three Injured in Firing on Shiites in Pakistan

BK0804001291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1748 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Karachi, April 7 (AFP)—Gunmen fired on a procession of Shiite Muslims here Sunday, injuring three people, official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said.

Later a mob set two police vehicles on fire and damaged the window of a building housing Radio Pakistan, APP said, adding that police used teargas to restore order. The procession, which eventually completed its march, was commemorating the death anniversary of Hazrat Ali, the fourth caliph of Islam.

Swedes Kidnapped To Highlight Kashmir Issue

BK0504121291 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The kidnappers of two Swedish engineers in occupied Kashmir have announced that the purpose of their action was to draw world attention toward the Kashmir issue, and the Swedish nationals were being treated as their guests. In a telephone call to an office of a newspaper at (?Srinagar), a spokesman of the Muslim Janbaaz Force claimed the responsibility of kidnapping and said the kidnappees would not be harmed. The two engineers working in a hydroelectric plant were returning to their homes from their workplace on Sunday when they were kidnapped.

Terms of Freedom Viewed

BK0604094091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Jammu, India, April 6 (AFP)—Muslim militants fighting for Kashmir's secession from India have demanded freedom for an imprisoned comrade and his parents in exchange for the release of two kidnapped Swedes, officials said here Saturday.

The Muslim Janbaaz Force (MJF) conveyed its demand Friday to an Urdu-language daily, ALSAFA, published from Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar, the officials said.

The MJF, an ally of the outlawed People's League, said Johan Jansson and Olle Loman would be freed if the Kashmir administration released Nayeem Khan and his parents from prison. Mr. Khan is a member of the People's League, which opposes Kashmir's 1947 accession to India.

Officials in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital, declined comment on the demand. Details were unavailable on when and where Mr. Khan and his parents were arrested or on what charges. The MJF did not specify a deadline for its demand to be met.

Mr. Jansson and Mr. Loman, the first foreigners to be kidnapped in Kashmir, were seized at gunpoint while they were driving in a car on March 31 from Tangmarg to Gulmarg, 45 kilometres (28 miles) from Srinagar. The kidnappers also snatched Mr. Jansson's wife and two children, but released them after holding them about five hours at an undisclosed place.

In a letter released by the MJF on Friday, Mr. Jansson and Mr. Loman, employed as engineers at a hydroelectric project in the Kashmir district of Uri, said their captors were treated them well.

Muslim militants have used kidnappings in the past to secure the release of their jailed comrades. They abducted a Kashmir MP's daughter on February 27 and released her unharmed after nine days in exchange for a prisoner's release.

Editorial Notes U.S. Apprehensions About Iran

BK0504125691 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
5 Apr 91 p 6

[Editorial: "The Arabs' Worst Enemy"]

[Text] Bush administration is planning to have a "victory" parade in New York on June 10. What victory? Does the picture of the Gulf region breathe the flavour of victory? Kuwait is in ruins. Hundreds of oil wells are spewing deadly fire and smoke. There is little by way of elementary civic amenities in the country which once was equipped with the very best in every respect. In Iraq there is utter chaos, killing and wretchedness. The monster the United State president had vowed to destroy is once again being protected and supported. Saddam Husayn has let hell loose upon Iraqi minorities as well as the Shi'ites. His blood-thirsty Republican Guards, once the pride of Iraq and now a rag-tag bunch, are on the rampage. America has nearly 200,000 troops spread all over Iraq but they are blithely watching this massacre and enjoying the gory spectacle.

On the one hand the Bush administration is mouthing clichés about Iraq's territorial integrity and on the other letting an awfully bad situation get rapidly worse. It is no longer in any doubt that President Bush has no intention to bring down the tyrant of Baghdad and help democratic forces in Iraq remove him. President Bush is actually allowing him to exterminate liberal and democratic forces and strengthen Saddam's regime. In the process the United States is openly abetting the massacre of innocents at the hands of Saddam's hungry hounds. Reliable estimates say the number of Iraqis killed in this blood-dripping chaos runs into hundreds of thousands. The merciless and wholly unnecessary American air raids on Iraq have thrown the country back into more or less the cave age.

The terrible truth about present day Iraq is not what American war and the massacres in its wake have inflicted upon the people of that desolate country. What the Bush administration is up to in the Gulf region could be satanically sinister. The real thorn in the side, as far as the U.S. is concerned for several years, is Iran. It has begun to appear now that President Bush is getting unnerved about the rise of Iran as a real power in the region. It is also profoundly apprehensive about the improvement which the Iranian leadership has managed in its relations with the Gulf Arabs in general and the Saudi kingdom in particular. Once again, the United States is back to square one. That is, Saddam should be saved, reared and re-equipped to menace Iran.

Where is the victory? Over whom? And what is this joke of a victory parade? It is the height of callousness and hypocrisy on the part of the United States to be preparing for victory celebrations when the whole of the Gulf should still be wallowing in blood and choked with lethal fumes from hundreds of oil wells uncontrollably afire. If this be friendship with the Arabs, what would enmity be?

Pakistan, China Develop New Missile System

BK0804083491 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
8 Apr 91 p 1, 10

[Article by Aroosa Alam; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Islamabad, April 7—Pakistan and China have developed a new version of anti-aircraft, shoulder-fired missile system to be known with Pakistani designation of Anza-II. The research and manufacturing of the electronic devices for the range, accuracy and detection of the target was done jointly by the Norinco Defence Industries of the People's Republic of China and the Dr. A.Q. Khan Laboratories.

Pakistan's eminent nuclear scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan who proceeded to the People's Republic of China to conduct proper tests and trials of the Anza-II with its Chinese designation of "Mongoose", said here Saturday evening, "Anza-II is the improvised version of 'Stinger' anti-aircraft system which has been modified and updated by the A.Q. Khan Laboratories and the Chinese rocket and missile experts."

He said Anza-II has the capability of wire and heart seeking search for the targets and it is capable of dodging the iron-delays normally released by the invading enemy jet-fighters". [sentence as published]

He said the missile is primarily designed to protect ground formations from the enemy ground support aircraft and attack helicopters. He said like Anza-I the Anza-II will also be mounted on armoured personnel cars and jeeps. "Basically it is designed for the infantry for its being a shoulder-fired capability like the Stinger, Sam-7 and RBS-20".

Dr. Qadeer Khan who has been responsible for the manufacturing of Anza-I and laser equipment for the indigenous missile and rocket system said, "Gulf war has left many a lessons for the weapons experts across the world. We are left with no choice but to improve the hi-tech, concentrate more on research and development and develop such weapons system which can be equal to the equipment and electronics of the United States and its allied armies status.

Dr. Khan said, "following the tests and trials of the Anza-II which will include target accuracy and range in People's Republic of China and after its proper approval by the Chinese Avionics and missile experts 'Anza-II' would be inducted in the Pakistan Army.

He said, "besides the anti-aircraft missile systems Pakistan and China are also engaged in developing anti-tank missile system with Pakistani designation of 'Green Arrow'.

Soviet Offer of Talks on Afghanistan Welcomed

BK0804084891 Islamabad *THE MUSLIM in English*
8 Apr 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Thaw in Afghanistan?"]

[Text] The Soviet Union is reported to have agreed to initiate "substantive talks" with Pakistan for finding a political solution to the Afghanistan problem. According to sources, such a dialogue has become more imperative because of the fall of Khowst, an important garrison to the Mujahidin. Moscow's most recent attitude cannot be anything but welcome. Whatever the situation on the ground, sources added, the basic position of Pakistan had not changed which had always advocated a peaceful settlement. Pakistan has also decided to approach the United Nations Secretary General to take immediate action leading to a political solution of the Afghan problem. The one major factor in prevention of any peaceful solution to the Afghan imbroglio has been the presence of Dr Najibullah. The bottom line, therefore, is the immediate removal of the gentleman so that negotiations can begin for the establishment of a broadbased government, even if interim in nature, in Afghanistan which can then work towards the early holding of elections leading to the formation of a stable government.

Now is the time for the proposed talks not to be "substantive" but positive. By agreeing to the removal of Dr Najibullah, the Soviet Union can do immeasurable good towards establishment of peace not only in Afghanistan but in the entire region. Through such action, the Soviet Union stands to gain everything. For one thing, it cannot afford to have Afghanistan, its own underbelly in a state of permanent ferment. For another, it has to realise that the events in Afghanistan, have over the years, had their effects in the Muslim Republics within its own borders. This fallout is one of the major headaches for Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. It has added to the state of uncertainty in the Soviet Union and no imminent improvement in the situation can be foreseen. It is for the Soviet Union to say why and how Dr Najibullah's presence on the Afghanistan scene is beneficial to it, but to any impartial observer it is glaringly obvious that keeping him in the saddle regardless, is doing irreparable harm and will continue to do so. Whichever form of government comes to the fore after Najib's ouster, is entirely the concern of the Afghan people. For their part the superpowers would be well advised to foster a political solution of the Afghan issue rather than use the present disunity to further their own ends.

Paper Reports Outcome of National Media Seminar

BK0404173091 Lahore *THE NATION in English*
4 Apr 91 p 1, 14

[By unidentified correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad—The two-day Information Ministry seminar on 'The role of mass media in a democratic

Pakistan' concluded here on Wednesday evening after adopting 31 recommendations for the Ministry for implementation.

The seminar participated by newsmen, editors, broadcasters, advertisers and ministry's officials, had its second working session on Wednesday morning and five committees of the participants discussed [sentence incomplete as published]

Top mediemen have recommended abolition of government control on the media and formation of an independent body, agency or broadcasting authority answerable to Parliament for its working.

The five committees, comprising eminent journalists and media managers formed to discuss various aspects of the mass media, in the morning session of the two-day seminar on "The Role of mass media in a democratic Pakistan" have suggested a number of measures after deliberations on various topics to meet the 21st century challenges.

The committees chaired by Mir Khalilur Rahman, Mr Arif Nizami, Majid Mufti, Mr Zia Shahid and Mr Farhad Zaidi in separate session put forward suggestions on important issues concerning the Media. These include freedom of information, financial challenges, low-literacy rate, violence and ill-effectiveness of the media.

The two-day seminar inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday had been arranged by the Information Ministry and attended by a large number of seasoned journalists, intellectuals and analysts.

The first committee chaired by Mr Khalilur Rahman deliberated on "credible and objective media: A must for any democratic society" and expressed the desirability of privatising APP [Associated Press of Pakistan], but recognising that this may not be possible in the short run, called for constituting a board of directors, to be nominated by subscribers.

The other recommendations of the committee were the following:

- Newspapers and publishers should be allowed to subscribe directly to foreign news agencies and services.
- Setting up of a Board of Directors for Radio and Television, the Chairman of the Board to be appointed by the President should be an eminent person from public life for fixed tenure. The Board should not be from among the employees but from among prominent people from public life.
- The charter governing the working of the broadcasting corporation should be amended to incorporate provisions that clearly affirm a commitment to objectivity and impartiality.
- The Ministry of Information should endeavor to improve the professional quality of their agencies and staff.

- Private TV channel should be permitted to be set up. An independent broadcasting authority should also be constituted to prescribe and determine a code of conduct.
- Government institutions should be allowed to control and distribute their advertising, free of government control.
- Setting up of a Press Council for compliance with the code of conduct formulated by APNS [All Pakistan Newspapers Society] and CPNE [Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors].
- The second committee on "freedom of media and its social responsibility" was chaired by Mr Arif Nizami.

The committee recommended the following:

- Effective role by the media to enhance literacy rate, with stress on resolving social problems of the people.
- Publication of research material on utilisation of Iqra [education] surcharge and to point out its appropriate use.

- Legislation to ensure the unhindered right of access to the facts.
- Criminal elements be discouraged by politicians, mediamen and by other segments of the society.
- Equal opportunities for Press in underdeveloped areas.
- Radio and television be freed from the government control and managed by a committee comprising parliamentarians.
- Government assistance for holding of frequent training workshops and seminar for journalists.
- Print media should refrain from publication of advertisements contrary to moral values.

The third committee on "Government-Press relations" headed by Mr Majid Mufti made the following recommendations:

- The Government should not exercise any control on the publication of news. As for views, the government is fully entitled to project its views through media including the Press but the same right should be given to the newspapers to reflect divergent viewpoints.